

'Iranian rivalries delay war offensive'

BAHRAIN (R) — Iranian doubts about prospects for its long-expected offensive against Iraq and differences within the Iranian establishment were delaying the attack, Iraq's information minister was quoted Wednesday as saying. Diplomats both sides of the border and Western intelligence reports have been saying for weeks that Iran has massed up to a million troops in border areas for a major offensive against Iraq, with which it has been at war since September 1980. But the minister, Latif Nassif Al Jassem, told the Bahrain daily Akhbar Al Khaleej the attack had been delayed because of doubts about its prospects of success and fear of the possible consequences. He also cited what he called rivalries between Iran's popular force of Revolutionary Guards and the military, and between factions of Iran's religious establishment as factors in the delay.

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Moscow postpones high-level China trip

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Wednesday announced without explanation the postponement of a long-planned official visit to Peking by First Deputy Premier Ivan Arkhipov. The Chinese Foreign Ministry earlier Wednesday said the Soviet Union had called off the trip, due to have started Thursday, with the explanation that it was not fully prepared. The Soviet news agency TASS said only that Mr. Arkhipov's visit had been "postponed for some time" by mutual agreement.

GCC war games scheduled for October

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's defence and aviation minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, said Wednesday that joint military manoeuvres of the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) were set for next October in Saudi Arabia. He said the war games were to be "a real manoeuvre." The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in an economic integration and combined defence alliance. Token forces from the GCC armed forces last October staged their first-ever joint manoeuvres in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

Egypt supports 'united Cyprus'

CAIRO (AP) — Butros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said Wednesday that Egypt supports "an independent and united" Cyprus and called on the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to live peacefully together in one state. Following a meeting with Greek Ambassador Antoine Nomikos, Mr. Ghali said both countries were following Cypriot developments in the United Nations Security Council and both supported U.N. efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

Sharon wins spot in party leadership

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon made a strong political comeback Wednesday, winning the number three spot in his party's choice of parliamentary candidates in the July general elections. Mr. Sharon will actually be the number four candidate since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who heads the right-wing Herut (Freedom) Party, did not have to stand for election in the party's 900-member central committee.

Britain hopes for early Hong Kong deal

LONDON (R) — Britain could wrap up a draft agreement within the next few months on handing Hong Kong back to China, authoritative sources said Wednesday. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe held talks in China last month and acknowledged that Britain would relinquish sovereignty of Hong Kong to Peking when 19th-century leases covering most of the Far East colony expire in 1997.

Karami says cabinet venue crisis settled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced Wednesday that he had resolved a dispute over the venue of the first working session of Lebanon's new cabinet, delayed by the refusal of opposition leaders to go to the presidential palace for security reasons.

The palace in suburban Baabda has been the traditional site of cabinet sessions, usually chaired by President Amin Gemayel. The mostly Christian suburb is eight kilometres east of Beirut, in an area controlled by the Lebanese Army and mainly Christian rightist militiamen who have fought against mainly Muslim leftist militiamen in recent outbreaks of factional fighting.

"We have reached an agreement that we would clear the way for the first cabinet meeting at the official site that will satisfy all parties," Mr. Karami told reporters after a meeting with Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt and Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri.

Asked whether that meant the 10-man, half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet would meet Thursday at the palace, Mr. Karami said: "Tomorrow (Thursday) you will know where." He would not elaborate.

Defence Minister Adel Ossiran, who attended part of the meeting with the two opposition leaders, said the long-awaited session of the "national unity" cabinet would "definitely" be held Thursday.

Mr. Junblatt, who will serve as minister of transportation, tourism and public works in the cabinet, had said the palace was "too dangerous" a site for the meeting. His ally, Mr. Berri, agreed with him.

Mr. Berri, who was appointed minister of state for southern Lebanon, reconstruction, justice and water and electricity resources,

said, "How to reach the Baabda palace is a security problem for Mr. Junblatt and myself."

"Security guarantees are lacking in Baabda," said Mr. Junblatt. "I respect the feelings of the others. Why should I hurt their feelings and go to their territory?"

Mr. Junblatt suggested holding the cabinet meeting on an American or French ship. "Why not the New Jersey or the Clemenceau?" he asked. "If they are obliging we can meet there."

The battleship USS New Jersey was pulled out of Lebanese waters after the collapse of the U.S. policy in Lebanon with the outbreak of more factional fighting in February.

The Clemenceau remains off the Beirut coast, apparently to provide security for the 65 French troops observers serving along the capital's embattled "green line."

Lebanese cabinets traditionally held regular weekly sessions on Wednesday at the presidential palace. Mr. Karami, Mr. Junblatt and Mr. Berri live in mostly Muslim west Beirut.

Mr. Karami has been travelling by army helicopter from west Beirut to the defence ministry in suburban Yarzeh and then by car to the nearby Baabda palace. Sources close to Mr. Junblatt say he feels particularly uneasy about the 500-metre car trip from Yarzeh to the palace because the route could easily be penetrated by rightist militiamen.

Rightist objections

It was not immediately clear, however, if any of the venues

would be acceptable to the right-wing Christians in the cabinet, who maintain that meeting outside the presidential palace would be a drastic break with tradition.

Former President Camille Chamoun, the new minister of finance and housing, told Reuters by telephone: "There's no question of meeting anywhere else at all."

He said his ally Pierre Gemayel, the father of the president and the new minister of posts, communications, health and social welfare, was taking exactly the same attitude.

Mr. Junblatt, who lost his father in a 1977 assassination and who was himself the target of an assassination attempt in 1982, has not been to Baabda since the middle of last year.

A senior presidential palace official said Wednesday there was no reason for Mr. Junblatt to fear for his safety. All necessary security precautions would be taken, he added.

For the first meeting of the new cabinet last Wednesday, several Muslim ministers flew to the palace by army helicopter.

Last hurdle lingers

One minister, Greek Orthodox Abdullah Rassi, is still resisting attempts to bring him in but political sources said the cabinet could go ahead without him.

Mr. Rassi and his patron, pro-Syrian Maronite Christian former President Suleiman Franjeh, want the cabinet to include a Maronite opposed to Mr. Chamoun and the Gemayels.

The president flew to see Mr. Franjeh in his North Lebanese home Tuesday, but Mr. Franjeh later told reporters his conditions had not been fulfilled.

The fronts in and around the capital were reported calm Wednesday with occasional sniper fire in the deserted commercial centre which straddles the "green line" between west and east.

Blazing Saudi ship threatens explosion

BAHRAIN (R) — A top Gulf environment official warned Wednesday that a Saudi oil tanker hit by a missile on Monday night was in danger of exploding and causing a major pollution problem in the waterway.

Abdul Latif Zeidan, director of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment, told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) there was a "big possibility" the 117,710-ton tanker Al Ahoud would blow up and pollute the Gulf.

The vessel was apparently hit by an Iraqi missile some 80 miles southeast of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern part of the Gulf, where it had taken on 140,000 tons of crude oil.

The tanker was still reported ablaze Wednesday, although the Singapore-based company Selco, which has the salvage rights, said the fire had been brought under control.

Iraq, which threatened Wednesday to step up its attacks on Gulf shipping, said its air force on Monday night had hit two large vessels believed to be tankers.

Iraq's oil minister, Qassem Ahmad Taqi, told reporters in Kuwait Wednesday "Iraq will hit harder now... at any tanker which goes through the prohibited military zone."

Iraq, which has been at war with Iran since September 1980, has declared an area of the northern Gulf a war zone barred to shipping. The zone includes Kharg Island and the Iranian ports of Bandar Khomeini and Bushire.

The Al Ahoud is owned by the Jeddah-based Al Amar Line Maritime Company.

Shipping sources said they were receiving conflicting reports that an Iranian helicopter Wednesday picked up a single crew member reported missing Tuesday. It was not known, however, whether he was dead or alive.

The rest of the 42-member Indian crew were rescued by a passing Greek vessel Tuesday.

A senior official of the Selco salvage company said in Singapore the engine room had been flooded and the ship appeared to be in danger of sinking.

Al Ahoud was the second Saudi-owned tanker to be hit by a missile in the Gulf in less than three weeks.

On April 25, the 178,000-ton Safina Al Arab, owned by A/S Safina of Riyadh, was hit as it sailed southwards, also after loading at Kharg.

Both Saudi tankers, along with a number of other vessels over the recent months, were said to have been hit after lifting crude from Kharg Island and slowly moving out of the declared exclusion zone.

"The world cannot just stand and watch Africa die," page 4

Libyan exiles say Tripoli battle was attempt to liquidate Qadhafi

LONDON (Agencies) — Libyan exiles in London said that 15 guerrillas were wiped out in a five-hour gun battle in Tripoli Tuesday during an attempt to assassinate Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Scores of Colonel Qadhafi's personal bodyguards were killed or wounded in the battle, a spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) told Reuters.

He said the group's military wing carried out the attack, details of which had been conveyed to London.

Official Libyan accounts on the fighting have made no mention of an attempt to kill Col. Qadhafi. "Maybe we failed to get Qadhafi this time but it is a turning point, the start of a new chapter," he said.

He said 15 commandos early Tuesday took over a small office building facing Tripoli's Baz Al Azziya barracks where Col. Qadhafi has his headquarters. They had established that Col. Qadhafi was inside at the time, the spokesman said.

The guerrillas then opened fire

from the building, firing machine-guns at sentries and using shoulder-launched rockets to reach positions inside the barracks, he said.

The spokesman asserted that forces inside the barracks joined in with the guerrillas in attacking Col. Qadhafi's "special forces," his personal guard.

"The raid lasted more than five hours and scores of Qadhafi's guard were killed and injured," he said. "Then our men ran out of ammunition and we believe the building was surrounded and blown up. Our men are dead."

Diplomats in Tripoli said life in the Libyan capital returned to normal Wednesday after the gun-battle Tuesday.

The diplomats, contacted by telephone from Bahrain, told Reuters check points set up Tuesday at crossroads and other areas had been lifted overnight and the situation was normal.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said security forces Tuesday killed guerrillas who held women and children hostage in a block of flats in the capital.

Qadhafi interviewed

Col. Qadhafi went horsieriding only hours after the gunbattle, the French newspaper Le Monde said Wednesday.

Correspondent Eric Rouleau, who interviewed Col. Qadhafi at his barracks home late Tuesday night, wrote in an article that the Libyan leader arrived with a radiant face at a racecourse about 10 kilometres from Tripoli at 1830 local time.

The Libyan leader told Rouleau in the interview that the guerrillas were members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood and had been trained in Sudan under the supervision of American experts.

Col. Qadhafi talked to Rouleau at length about the attackers, who, Rouleau reported, were all killed and whose bodies were later publicly exposed on the "Green Square" in the city centre.

Col. Qadhafi said Libyan security forces intercepted three infiltrators near the Tunisian border

(Continued on page 2)

Arafat in Dhaka

DHAKA (Agencies) — The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, arrived Wednesday for a visit after trips to China and North Korea.

Mr. Arafat made a brief stopover here last Saturday on his way to Peking and officials said he had discussed "matters of common concern" with Bangladesh President Hosain Mohammad Ershad.

The officials would not give details of Mr. Arafat's current visit. The PLO leader is expected to have another round of talks with President Ershad during his stay.

Mr. Arafat's meetings in North Korea included President Kim Il Sung, the official North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

KCNA said Mr. Arafat and his entourage were seen off at the airport by thousands of wellwishers, including Premier Kang Song San and Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam.

On Tuesday, Mr. Arafat and President Kim pledged to further Korean-Palestinian relations and the continuation of their struggle against "imperialist" forces, KCNA said.

Mr. Arafat also held talks with Chinese Communist Party Chief Hu Yaobang in Pyongyang, KCNA said.

Mr. Arafat flew to North Korea on Monday after a three-day visit to Peking. The agency said Mr. Hu reaffirmed China's backing for the Palestinian cause during the meeting.

Alami demands removal of Israeli forces in Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The head of Jerusalem's Supreme Muslim Council Wednesday demanded that Israel remove its military forces at Al Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

"This is a holy mosque for prayers and not for soldiers and guns. I can't pray while a soldier is near me carrying a gun," said Sheikh Saaduddin Al Alami whose council is responsible for the domed shrine and other Muslim holy places.

Mr. Alami told a news conference he wanted Israeli police to replace the border policemen stationed at the mosque, which is protected by unarmed Muslim guards hired by the council.

He accused the border policemen of misbehaviour and disrespect to the holy place.

Mr. Alami said he was sending a letter to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking for U.N. intervention with the Israeli government.

He told the Associated Press in a separate interview that letters to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Interior Minister Yosef Burg have gone unanswered.

Mr. Neeman, a nuclear physicist who favours annexing the occupied West Bank, said the car bombing was "a much less serious crime in my eyes than the murder of innocent people as a response to the murder of innocent Jews."

Security authorities are holding 25 Israelis, most of them settlers

from the West Bank and the occupied Golan Heights, suspected of belonging to a Jewish terrorist underground network.

Some suspects are reported to have confessed to a commando-style attack at Hebron Islamic College last July in which four Palestinian students were killed. Security sources say the same group probably planned the 1980 car bombs that maimed the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah.

Comparing the two incidents, Mr. Neeman, a nuclear physicist who favours annexing the occupied West Bank, said the car bombing was "a much less serious crime in my eyes than the murder of innocent people as a response to the murder of innocent Jews."

Israeli minister says attacks on mayors had 'positive effect'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister set off a political storm Wednesday by suggesting that the June 1980 car bomb attacks that maimed two Palestinian mayors in the occupied West Bank had a "positive effect."

Science and Development Minister Yuval Neeman, an outspoken ultra-nationalist who heads the right-wing Tebiya (renaissance) party, told Israeli Radio: "I don't say that I justify it (the car bomb attacks) but I say that in total, it had a positive effect."

His remark was immediately denounced by other politicians, including a parliamentary colleague in the Tebiya Party.

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Islamic Jihad claims Beirut kidnappings

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A shadowy group, Islamic Jihad (holy war), claimed responsibility Wednesday for the recent kidnapping of three Americans in West Beirut.

Islamic Jihad, which has said it carried out the suicide bombing of the U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut last October, made the new claim in a telephone call to an international news agency in Beirut.

The caller said Islamic Jihad had carried out Tuesday's kidnap of an American Presbyterian pastor, Ben Weir.

He added that the group was also holding journalist Jeremy Levin, who disappeared on March 7, and diplomat William Buckley, who was abducted on March 17.

The caller warned: "We will not allow a single American to remain on Lebanese territory."

Islamic Jihad has also claimed responsibility for kidnapping the Saudi Arabian consul in Beirut, Hussein Farrash, on Jan. 17.

Arab diplomatic sources say they believe the group may have kidnapped the consul and the Americans to try to secure the release of Islamic militants arrested in Kuwait after a series of bomb attacks there in December, Reuters said.

The Paris-based, Arabic language magazine Al Mostaqbal reported on April 17 that the kidnapping of the Americans in Beirut was done by unidentified groups

which are seeking to prevent the execution of two Iraqis and a Lebanese convicted in Kuwait for the December bombings.

Wednesday's caller also warned the dominant Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" militia not to interfere on behalf of the kidnapped or "we'll reach out for its members."

A fourth American was kidnapped in west Beirut on Feb. 10. Frank Regier, a professor at the American University of Beirut, was rescued by Amal militiamen on April 15 along with a Frenchman kidnapped earlier. The two were spotted in a deserted house in the Shi'ite-populated suburb of Ouzai on the southern outskirts of Beirut.

ICHIH appeals for urgent efforts to save starving millions in Africa

By Ibrahim Abu Nab
Special to the Jordan Times

The crisis is at its peak in the west coast of Africa. But, as the communiqué says, "the extent of

the problem is such that hardly a country on the continent has been left untouched by the cycle of pov-

erty, hunger, disease and degradation of the environment. It is estimated that in 1984 alone, five

million infants will die in Africa." There is more to come on the state of the commission itself.

The chicken or the egg first

Having been the only journalist who attended the ICIH's meetings behind closed doors in Tunis at Hammamat where many other humanitarian issues were thrashed out, one wonders about one particular issue: How is the commission going to be heard and how can it effect change in the hardened attitudes of the so-called international community? Does the world need a better information order first in order to relay the picture in Africa and the commission's findings or should the commission take up, among other things, the issue of information alongside the issues of desertification and disarmament?

The commission's own coffers are almost empty and the would-be contributors and donors seem to be waiting to see first what the objectives of ICIH really are and how is it going to go about them. As one commissioner put it, it is another case of the chicken and the egg and which comes first. While the commission is particular about a low profile at this stage, it

cannot ignore the fact that it needs the maximum use of the media in order to make an impact on world public opinion.

The same picture applies to finances. In his report to the commission, the executive secretary seemed at pains to conceal the gloomy picture of the financial situation. But the treasurer, had to explain that "without a generous contribution from Prince Hassan, this very meeting would not have been possible."

The revelation was certainly startling. "Sidi Hassan", as many preferred to call him, who was the spirit behind ICIH from its inception, sat at the head of table with Prince Sadruddin and listened. He was still at the helm of

the boat which was to find a "hypothetical outline". The meeting in the small vaulted hall of the charming International Cultural Centre in the Tunisian resort city of Hammamat was discussing other reports on humanitarian issues such as norms in armed conflicts, disaster relief and vulnerable groups.

I turned to a fellow observer and remarked: How edifying it is to listen to such an articulate and knowledgeable group of eminent persons from the four corners of the globe, but also how frustrating. There was the archbishop of Sao Paulo, the vice-president of India, the former president of the

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan (to Prince Hassan's left) co-chair meetings in Tunis last week of the Independent Commission for International Humanitarian Issues (ICHIH). To Prince Hassan's right is Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Masmali (Photo by Abdul Qader Ayyoub)

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Yamani says Iraqi attack on oil tanker unintentional

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani was quoted Wednesday as saying Iraqi attacks on Saudi-owned oil tankers leased to foreign operators were unintentional.

The Kuwait News Agency said Sheikh Yamani, in Kuwait for a meeting of Arab oil ministers, told reporters the pilot of a fighter plane could not distinguish a ship's nationality from the air.

Informed shipping sources in the Gulf meanwhile said the Saudi-owned Al Ahoud, apparently hit by an Iraqi missile on Monday night, was ablaze from stem to stern and was likely to be a complete write-off.

The 117,710-deadweight ton tanker was hit some 80 miles southeast of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, where it had taken on 140,000 tonnes of crude oil. Iraq later said its air force had hit two large vessels believed to be tankers in the area.

The shipping sources said there were unconfirmed reports that the one missing member of the all-Indian crew had been picked up by a helicopter. The others were taken aboard a passing Greek vessel earlier.

The Singapore-based salvage firm SELCO was taking charge of

the salvage operation with two tugs on their way to the stricken vessel from Iran and Bahrain.

The apparent attack on the Al Ahoud followed an explosion aboard the Saudi-owned Safina Al Arab on March 25, said by the ship's Swedish operators to have been caused by a missile.

Saudi Arabia has been Iraq's main financial backer in the conflict. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein later hinted that his forces had attacked the Safina Al Arab, but without naming it.

Both attacks took place in an area at the head of the Gulf which Iraq, at war with Iran since September 1980, has declared a prohibited war zone.

Marine insurers in London Tuesday doubled the war risk premium on ships using Kharg Island and the Iranian port of Bushire to two per cent in response to the attacks, and Japanese shipowners said the latest incident had reinforced their unwillingness to send their tankers to the terminal. Iran has repeatedly threatened

to block the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf, through which a sixth of the West's oil supplies pass, if Iraq disrupts its oil exports.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia was able to set conditions on destinations of its tankers such as not loading at Kharg, Mr. Yamani said this was up to the owners.

"These tankers are not owned by Arab states and individuals in many of those states conduct their business activities without any certain regulations of this kind," the agency quoted Mr. Yamani as saying.

But he added that such conditions "might be necessary for financial reasons and to head off dangers to investments."

The Al Ahoud is owned by the Jeddah-based Amad Line Maritime Company and was managed by a Hong Kong firm, while the Safina Al Arab is owned by A/S Safina of Riyadh and was chartered to Salentank AB of Sweden.

Fire under control

The Singapore-based SELCO salvage company said that it had won the rights to salvage the



Ahmad Zaki Yamani

117,710-ton Saudi-registered Al Ahoud which was hit by a missile 80 miles southeast of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

A senior executive of SELCO told Reuters that the engine room of the stricken vessel had been flooded and the ship appeared in no immediate danger of sinking.

But he added that it was too early to make any firm judgement on the condition of the vessel. "The weather is also bad in the area with strong winds, heavy swells and rough seas," he said. One crewman was killed and the rest were taken on by a Greek ship.

He said that one of SELCO's salvage vessels had reached the scene and the master had managed to board the Al Ahoud. "A survey of the vessel is now in progress," he said.

Numeiri, Crocker hold talks

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri discussed bilateral and African issues Wednesday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker, the official Sudanese News Agency SUNA said.

It gave no further details of the talks but said Mr. Crocker, who arrived here Tuesday, had separate talks with Sudan's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Hashem Osman.

Mr. Crocker's talks follow the imposition of a state of emergency in Sudan last month and a major cabinet shake-up by Mr. Numeiri in what political analysts saw an effort to overcome political and economic problems besetting the country.

Mr. Crocker is due in Cairo Thursday for talks with Egyptian officials on the Sudanese crisis. Washington is a major military and economic supporter of both Egypt and Sudan.

In Khartoum, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) later quoted Mr. Crocker as saying he had discussed with Mr. Tayeb bilateral relations, U.S. aid in Africa and Sudan's role in maintaining stability in the region.

Mr. Crocker later had a sep-

Amnesty accuses Turkey of torture

LONDON (R) — Thousands of political detainees have been systematically tortured under the martial-law rule of Turkey's generals, the human rights organisation, Amnesty International, charged Wednesday.

A new report by the London-based organisation said that according to former prisoners, detainees suffered savage beatings and electric shocks to their genitals.

They were also "burned with cigarettes, tied to hot radiator pipes, suspended from the ceiling by their hands or feet for prolonged periods until they screamed with pain, and routinely subjected to brutal beatings on the soles of their feet."

Amnesty urged the Ankara government to put a halt to secret detentions, allow an independent investigation of the torture reports and prosecute alleged torturers.

It quoted one former woman prisoner, named as Sema Ogru, as saying her torturers had threatened to sterilise her: "They wet the inside of my crotch and began applying electric shocks."

Ms. Ogru, who amnesty said was arrested with her husband in 1981 and spent over a year in a military prison near Ankara, said one 50-year-old man was forced to watch while his children were stripped naked and tortured.

"The torture never let up," she was quoted as saying. "After a while I was able to pick out which

torture was being applied — from the screams."

During detention, Ms. Ogru was twice taken to hospital where she asked doctors to record torture marks but they refused.

Amnesty said most allegations of torture concerned political prisoners, but it also had information which "strongly suggests that the torture of ordinary criminal suspects is routine in Turkish police stations."

The most severe torture was usually inflicted during the 45-day legal detention period, allegedly by police for the purpose of extracting information and confessions, the report said.

Routine beatings in military prisons, where people were sent after being charged or convicted, appeared to have been for the sole purpose of maintaining discipline. Amnesty said it had submitted to the authorities names of more than 100 people alleged to have died in custody since the September 1980 military coup and received replies on 81 of them.

"In 25 cases, investigations were said to be in progress. Other replies indicated deaths as a result of suicide, accident or illness, or referred to lack of information or any record of detention," it said.

Turkey resents report

In Ankara, a senior Turkish official said Wednesday Ankara resented a report by the human rights group Amnesty International all-

eging systematic torture in Turkish jails, and said no government official ordered torture.

Elected government was restored last December. But martial law continues over most of the country and thousands of people arrested for alleged involvement in political violence before the coup are still being held in military and other jails.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's chief adviser Adnan Kahveci told Reuters: "No government official gives orders or wishes that prisoners be tortured... any allegation reported to the authorities is immediately taken up."

He added: "We resent the fact that they (amnesty) treat us like a South American country. This is not the case. The government is very concerned and conscious of the issue."

He said Mr. Ozal's conservative government had taken up the issue without any pressure from opposition groups, setting up a commission to investigate prison conditions earlier this year.

Mr. Kahveci said some 600 cases of alleged torture had been taken up by the courts, resulting in about 80 convictions and 100 acquittals so far.

Two policemen were jailed last month for torturing a student to death in 1980. They were sentenced to six years and eight months, a much lighter sentence than those usually handed down to political and common murderers.

'Tripoli battle was attempt on Qadhafi'

(Continued from page 11)

on May 6. One was killed in a skirmish and the other two were wounded and captured.

They carried the names, addresses and telephone numbers of fellow conspirators in Tripoli. Col. Qadhafi said, and lists of Libyan officials they were sent to assassinate.

The leader of the group was immediately arrested and promptly betrayed a dozen other plotters who had rented an apartment in the centre of Tripoli, Col. Qadhafi said.

Rouleau told Col. Qadhafi this version contained some contradictions difficult to explain. "But you forget the total imbecility of these people," the Libyan strongman replied.

While insisting that the Muslim Brotherhood launched the attack, Col. Qadhafi said the United States and Britain were ultimately responsible for it because they "give asylum — not, as they claim

to our political opponents — but to terrorists whom they arm and incite to commit crimes, with the active collaboration of Sudan and other Arab countries."

Rouleau said artillery and machinegun fire could be heard in Tripoli from 9.30 a.m. (0630 GMT).

"Armed militiamen or civilians of the 'revolutionary guards' spread through the streets to stop traffic, causing monstrous traffic jams," Rouleau said. "They barricaded the strategic quarters of the capital, occupied official buildings and courageously asked pedestrians to return home."

"Tripoli was paralysed. Early in the afternoon it looked like a dead city. The streets were empty, the shops had lowered their shutters and the population had taken refuge indoors behind closed blinds. There was an interminable silence which gave rise to a flood of rumours."

"Then, abruptly, at about 4.30 p.m. (1330 GMT), sirens sounded

and motorcades began to drive through the main streets sounding their horns while revolutionary slogans were being chanted. Young people, men and women, their fists clenched and brandishing a submachinegun or a portrait of Qadhafi marched through the streets shouting 'the permanent revolution yes, fascism no'."

"Many of them went to the Green Square where the bodies of a dozen men were exhibited for 15 minutes. There, they chanted triumphantly: 'The traitors have been liquidated.'"

Britain totally rejected Libyan allegations that it had been involved in the guerrilla attack. "It is not British government policy to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries," a statement by the Foreign Office in London said.

The statement said the government gave no support to the activities of the NFSL.

Iraq warns ships against entering Kharg

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq's Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taki warned Wednesday Iraqi Super-Extended fighter jets will continue to hit oil tankers and ships which enter the banned military zone and frequent Iran's Kharg Island regardless of whether they belong to Arab or non-Arab states "simply because we cannot distinguish them."

The Iraqi minister was talking to reporters shortly after attending the semi-annual ministerial conference of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Mr. Taki also said: "The decision to attack the Kharg Island time and will be implemented at once without prior notice," he said.

Turkish deputies re-admitted to Council of Europe

STRASBOURG, France (R) — The Council of Europe assembly Tuesday decided to re-admit Turkish deputies for the first time since the Turkish military coup in September 1980.

The parliamentary assembly voted 91 to 50, with 10 abstentions, to allow a 12 delegates to take their seats.

Conservative, Christian Democrat and Liberal groups in the assembly said the situation in Turkey was far from perfect but nothing would be achieved by cutting it off from the mainstream of European political and democratic life.

"Will withdrawal or expulsion mean human rights are better guaranteed in Turkey?" Austrian Christian Democrat Wolfgang Blenk asked the assembly of the 21-nation council, which groups Europe's parliamentary democracies.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30 Kanan

16:45 Cartoons

17:10 Children's Programme

17:45 Children's Programme

18:30 Dickens

19:20 Programme Review

19:30 News in Arabic

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic Series

21:40 Arabic Play

23:00 News in Arabic

23:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:45 French Programme

19:00 News in French

19:20 French Programme

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:30 Room Service

21:10 Marlowe

22:00 News in English

22:15 Feature Film: The Seagull

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHZ, AM & 90 MHz, FM & partly on 95.00 KHZ, SW

07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsdesk

08:00 Morning Show

08:30 News Summary

10:03 Morning Show

11:00 Pop Session

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session

14:00 News Bulletin

14:10 Instruments

14:30 Just A Minute

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instruments

16:30 Old Favourites

17:00 Special Feature

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Good Old Days

18:30 Music

19:00 Newsdesk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show

21:55 News Summary

22:00 Evening Show

23:00 News Summary

24:00 Close Down

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Australian graphic art Dooncel Patterson at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Jordan 1984" an exhibition of paintings at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

* An exhibition by Mr. Michel Lecomte at the Royal Cultural Centre between May 7 and May 15.

VIDEO

* "Julien de Young" at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 44371

American Centre Library 41520

British Council 36147-8

French Cultural Centre 37009

Goethe Institute 41993

Soviet Cultural Centre 44203

Spanish Cultural Centre 34049

Turkish Cultural Centre 39777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 667181

Y.W.C.A. 41793

Y.W.M.C.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 36111

University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (RJ)

08:15 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

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09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

09:45 Kuwait (RJ)

09:45 Jeddah (RJ)

09:45 Cairo (RJ)

10:00 Dhahran (RJ)

10:35 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)

11:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)

11:40 Tripoli, Laraca (LN)

14:40 Kuwait (RJ)

14:40 Laraca (RJ)

16:45 Baghdad (IA)

16:50 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

17:10 Athens (RJ)

17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

18:10 Amsterdam, Laraca (KLM)

18:15 Kuwait (RJ)

19:15 Zurich, Laraca (SR)

19:30 London (BA)

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20:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111

Fire, fire, police 190

Blood bank 75121

Police headquarters 39141

Defence rescue 66111

Police rescue 22090-3

Police headquarters 39141

Traffic police 56390-1

Electric Power Co. 36381-2

Municipal water service 71125-8

Queen Alia Int. Airport 081 53333

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813-32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4

Akileh Maternity, J. Amman 42441

Jabal Amman Maternity 42362

Malha, J. Amman 36140

Palatine, Shmeisani 66471-4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Dar Al-Shifa, J. Husseini 667127-9

Al-Musabir Hospital 667158

The Islamic, Abdali 665292

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164

Malha, J. Amman 77101-3

Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 75111

Army, Marjeh 91611

GENERAL

Jordan Television 73111

Radio Jordan 74111

Ministry of Tourism 42311

Hotel complaints 666412

Price complaints 661176

Information 12

Jordan and Middle East calls 10

Overseas calls 17

Cable or telegram 11

Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Bacon 240 / 240

Bacon (Mukammal) 240 / 210

Beans 350 / 300

Broad Beans 250 / 200

Butter 130 / 100

Cabbage 70 / 50

Carrot 120 / 100

Cauliflower (white) 220 / 180

Chick peas 120 / 100

Cucumber (small) 200 / 150

Cucumber (large) 270 / 240

Eggplant (large) 170 / 140

Eggplant (small) 140 / 110

Garlic 340 / 300

Grapefruit 180 / 150

Lemon 200 / 170

Mallow (Mukammal) 470 / 420

Marrow (large) 250 / 200

Marrow (small) 600 / 500

Mushrooms 180 / 140

Onion (green) 180 / 140

Oranges (local) 150 / 100

Oranges (Shumrani) 300 / 250

Peas 330 / 300

Pepper (sweet) 350 / 300

Pepper (hot green) 400 / 360

Potatoes 230 / 200

Spinach 130 / 100

Tomatoes 230 / 200

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

10:00 Kanan

10:20 Flash Gordon

11:05 Don Quixote

11:30 Friday

12:00 Survival

12:45 Religious Programme

13:35 Emergency

14:25 Secret

15:30 Knight Rider

16:10 Arabic Variety Programme

17:30 Arabic Play

18:05 Religia

19:30 Religious Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL

14:00 French Programme

15:00 News in French

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:30 Empire

21:00 Crown Court

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22:15 Magnin

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Parliament to discuss formation of parties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Formation of political parties in Jordan and allowing more democratic freedom for the public will be the main topics for discussion by the Lower House Parliament in the coming week, according to a report in Al Rai newspaper Wednesday.

Domestic issues

It said that domestic issues and the internal situation in Jordan in general will be discussed. The

rights and duties of citizens will be among the subjects to be discussed along with the status of special courts and the sentences which allow for no appeal, as well as an amendment to the Press and Publication law which allows the government to withdraw the licence of newspapers and journals.

The 26 members of parliament proposing the amendment have claimed that articles 16 and 23 of the law contradicts the spirit of the constitution.

Parliamentary body to study travel details

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament's West Bank Committee has set up a sub-committee to make a full study of procedures for organising travel across the River Jordan bridges.

The committee will also look into measures for bolstering the steadfastness of people in the occupied Arab lands and to find means of aborting Israel's move to force the Arab inhabitants to leave their homeland.

The sub-committee's findings will be submitted to the Lower House and the government for consideration.

It was also announced here Wednesday that Interior Minister Suleiman Arar will visit the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad Bridges Thursday to inspect travel

procedures there. Mr. Arar will be accompanied by officials from the Public Security Directorate, the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs and the Jordan Valley Authority.

At the same time, it was announced that the Interior Ministry has embarked on arrangements for organising visits to the occupied Arab lands and travel across the two bridges over the Jordan River.

The ministry, through various centres around the country, will issue special permits for the visits.

A ministry spokesman said that further transport facilities will be made available next month, which marks the start of the summer visiting season.

Medical board to convene here

AMMAN (Petra) — A special session of the committee of the Arab Medical Board will be held in Amman on May 26.

During the three day meeting, a number of working papers, medical specialisations presented by certain Arab countries and a working paper about the Jordanian experiment in the field of treating lesser known medical illnesses, in addition to two working papers submitted by the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University will be discussed.

Participating in the works of the session will be a number of specialists from some Arab countries, physicians attached to Jordan's Ministry of Health and the faculties of medicine at the two Universities in Jordan.

'Obeidat calls for more efficient postal service

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Wednesday stressed the need to increase the number of post office boxes at the central post office in Amman to further facilitate the speedy delivery of letters, packages and printed material to the people.

The prime minister, who was speaking during a visit to the central post office here, passed directives to officials on raising the efficiency of work.

Accompanied by Communications Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, the prime minister toured the office's various sections and looked into the services offered to the public.

Mr. 'Obeidat then watched work in progress visiting the postal sorting bay followed by the letters distribution area where the post is sent out to the 2,400 post office

boxes.

Dr. Zaben explained to the prime minister his ministry's programmes for expanding and developing postal services in the country.

The Ministry of Communications plans to open new post offices in Amman's suburbs and intends to further promote postal services by holding training courses for post office employees to raise the standard of their efficiency, the minister said.

According to Dr. Zaben, the central post office handles nearly 190,000 postal items every day.

Also during the prime minister's tour, Mansour Ibn Tarif, the Communication Ministry under-secretary presented a comprehensive briefing on the services offered by the Amman central post office.

EC finances one-third of education project

Saket inaugurates Mafraq vocational training school

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Minister of Education Hikmat Al Saket Wednesday inaugurated a vocational training school at Mafraq, built and equipped jointly by the Jordanian government and the European Community (EC).

The school, which accommodates 260 trainees, gives training in carpentry, car mechanics, central heating maintenance, welding, laboratory

work, plumbing and draughtsmanship. The total cost of building and equipping the school amounted to JD 900,000 of which the EC contributed JD 300,000.

Director of the education department in Mafraq Sadek Milhem made a speech at the inauguration ceremony expressing appreciation to the European Community for helping to establish the school, that will give training opp-

ortunities to the local community. The school principal, Rabah Sa'id, also made a speech in which he said 350 students will be admitted in the coming scholastic year, now that all the facilities and equipment have been installed.

The school has a boarding section for students from a long way away, a cafeteria and a general activities hall for the trainees.

Nine of the staff have received training in Denmark. Mr. Sa'id said.

Ministry of Education officials and representatives of the EC office in Amman were present at the ceremony and later accompanied the minister on a tour of the workshops and other facilities.

Italy presents gift to centres

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Salam Kana'an, together with the Italian ambassador in Amman, Marquis Fabrizio Rossi Longhi, Thursday will visit Ader Centre in the Karak Governorate and Rahef Centre in the Ma'an Governorate to present visual and hearing aids to these centres valued at JD 13,000.

Italian aid to Jordan comes within the parameters of the technical co-operation agreement between the two countries which aims to support to the voluntary service field in both the Karak and Ma'an regions.

Spanish cities team leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Spanish Cities Federation left Amman for Kuwait Wednesday at the end of its four-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Amman Municipality.

During the visit, the delegation met Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and other officials with whom they agreed to increase co-operation between Spanish and Jordanian cities in general and between Amman and Spanish cities in particular.

The delegation toured archaeological and tourist sites.

UNRWA open day raises money for disabled, orphaned refugees

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud patronised a sponsored run and open day held at the Amman Training Centre near Na'our Wednesday.

Organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), the sponsored run aimed to raise funds to assist needy refugees who

cannot be aided from the agency's regular budget.

The money raised will be used to give special services to disabled refugees and for yearly summer camps and clubs organised for orphaned refugee children.

Over 50 runners from the UNRWA staff, including field officers, teachers and administrative officials, took part in the hour-long run around the track at the training centre watched by a large crowd.

The sponsored run is the fourth such event to be organised here by UNRWA, which together have raised JD 23,494 for the benefit of needy refugees.

Before starting the race, the minister toured the training centre accompanied by UNRWA Director in Jordan Olof Halkvist and staff from the centre.

The excellent displays of arts, crafts, artificial flowers, photography, book binding, educational aids and vocational demonstrations showed the creative and educational activities of the students.

Mr. Mansour Mansour, assistant principal at the Amman Training Centre, told the Jordan Times that the 213 UNRWA sch-

ools throughout the country had contributed to the exhibition with great enthusiasm and that the varied activities had provided a good family day out.

The Amman Training Centre, administered by UNRWA in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), provides teacher and vocational training for Palestinian refugee students.

British union visits camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — A National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) delegation from Britain Monday arrived in Amman to study Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and the occupied territories.

The delegation Monday met the minister of labour, Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, the under-secretary at the Information Ministry and a representative of the Ministry of Occupied Territory Affairs.

Police trap Egyptian watch thieves

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman police have caught four Egyptians who broke into a shop in the capital and stole 591 watches, cassette players, and calculators, worth a total of JD 30,000.

The robbers, aged between 28 and 33, admitted to planning and executing the robbery in collusion.

The four said they had kept a close watch over the shop for two or three days before carrying out their robbery at night.

During this time, they familiarised themselves with the padlocks, brought new ones that look similar and exchanged them during the day as the shop proprietor was not paying attention. They then used the keys to the new

locks to open the door of the shop at night.

Two of them robbed the premises while the other two acted as look out. They all then carried the booty to their home in the Masarweh district of Jabal Amman.

Police were alerted and immediately embarked on an investigation. The police's attention centred on street vendors who normally sell watches and similar items to those stolen from the shop but to no avail.

In the course of their investigation however the police heard from a person who had reported that he had been approached by four people asking if he would take part in stealing wat-

ches.

Further investigation led to the identification of the four persons who turned out to be Egyptians. Their homes were searched and the stolen items had found.

These included 560 watches, 31 gas lighter, four calculators, tape recorder and cash, all worth JD 30,000.

The four thieves admitted to committing the robbery and related the whole story to the police. Two of the robbers had previous criminal records in Egypt, according to a police spokesman, who warned the public against purchasing stolen items.

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Jean-Paul Belmondo Robert Hossein
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Jordan Times

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Debate on democracy

THE Lower House of Parliament is planning to end its first ordinary session since its recall last January with a wide-ranging debate on the internal situation in Jordan. The debate is scheduled for the middle of next week, probably for Tuesday or Wednesday. Those issues that will be discussed range from confiscation for security purposes of citizens' passports to the legalisation of political parties to the rights and duties of the citizen.

As we look forward to such an important debate about important issues facing all Jordanians, we note with gratification the way our representatives and the government have conducted their dialogue so far. Only a few months in the life of the recalled parliament and the new government, Jordan seems to have established a solid cornerstone in its political development, for now and for the future.

Admittedly, not much was actually accomplished, in the way of making legislative and executive decisions, in this period. But this is perfectly understandable considering the time required to settle in a new government and to renew an old parliament and to mesh the two together into a working relationship — not to forget the intervening role of an overwhelming public interest in shaping up the directions of the new Jordanian experience in government and governing. In fact, accomplishments could wait until after everybody has had a chance to study our internal and external situations closely. Now is the time to assess and to hear the other point of view and to establish the groundwork for the real democracy to which our people aspire and strive.

That debate that is coming up next week is important not only because of the sensitive issues that have to be tackled there; it will also serve as an indicator of how future sessions of parliament will be conducted and how the government will react to and deal with thorny questions and difficult issues at stake. Each of the subjects that will be raised should be a matter for extensive public discussions, and not only a contention that a representative here or a minister there might wish to make. The range is unlikely to be covered in one meeting or even a number of them.

By this, we do not suggest that a preliminary session of parliament could not be concluded with a monumental debate on those most important questions facing Jordan. We are merely cautioning against trying to solve all problems at once.

Otherwise, our representatives should be encouraged to speak their mind, on any host of issues, at any moment they like.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: More than a government

IT SEEMS that the optimism which was felt in the Arab World following the formation of the Karami government has now receded and pessimism has crept in. It also seems that the combatants in the streets of Beirut have the upper hand and they impose their will upon the course of events and the future of Lebanon.

The Lebanese should realise that their country cannot get rid of the current conflict unless they feel that the unity of their country should override all other considerations and therefore continued conflict does not serve that objective.

Unless the Lebanese decide on safeguarding their country's unity, the conflict will continue and no government like that of Mr. Karami will put an end to it. The past ten years of bloodshed and internal strife should be sufficient to make the Lebanese understand the facts about the situation and that their whole future will be endangered unless they arrive at a formula to guarantee peace and rights and stability for all.

However, the Karami government does not hold a magic wand and cannot solve all the problems and, therefore, the leaders of Lebanon's factions should re-consider their stand and show more flexibility and magnanimity so that peace can be achieved among the various strata and factions of Lebanon.

Al Dustour: Covering for terrorism

ISRAELI LEADERS are now seeking to cover up the case of terrorist attacks on Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories after they discovered that leading political and military personalities and notable settlers are involved. Recent statements by government members indicated that the Zionist rulers want to minimise the importance of the case and conceal the truth about the terrorist network responsible for the bombings.

A government member said Tuesday night that there was no need for going ahead with investigation into the case lest this would adversely affect Israel's settlement policy, or the course of the coming elections.

The Israeli public became involved following the confession of some members of the terrorist group of their involvement in the issue and their attacks on mayors, university students and other members of the Arab population. The Shamir government is trying hard to keep matters secret and to minimise the importance of these attacks in a bid to win the coming elections and maintain their settlement policies unopposed. Israel itself has been condemned in the light of the confessions and the facts that had been leaked to the press. But terrorism has always marked the Zionist state's policies ever since its establishment, and Israel's practices against the Arab people under its rule bear witness to this fact.

The Arab population who fell victim to Zionist terrorism is the same population who can expose such crimes in the world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Counter-terrorism

IT SEEMS that the Libyans are now being paid in the same coin and are victims of terrorism which they had been trying to create in other parts of the world. The Libyan rulers have transformed their country into a centre of international terrorism without due cause and have allocated funds and devoted their time and effort to this evil cause.

The Libyan regime had often bragged about its responsibility for kidnapping and killing other people who oppose them or are hostile to their policies.

On the national front, Libya has failed to honour its commitments in helping other Arab countries confronting Israel, refrained from attending Arab summit conferences to discuss means of ending Arab differences and plan a joint strategy against the common enemy, and continued to hatch conspiracies against Sudan, Egypt and other Arab states. What is more, Libya had joined Syria in giving total support for the Arab war with Iraq and helped to sap Arab resources and money by helping rebels and dissidents in Ireland and other movements around the world. Libya under Qadhafi has become isolated in the Arab World and had acted in a hostile manner towards Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the Palestinians and is continuously at loggerheads with north African Arab states.

The recent attack on Qadhafi's headquarters in Tripoli comes as a natural response in the long history of terrorism committed by Libya's rulers against the Libyan people and other peoples around the world.

ICHI goes beyond individual political human rights

The world cannot just stand and watch Africa die

Following is the final communiqué issued by the Tunisia Meeting (May 4-6, 1984) of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI), which is co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan. At the meeting in Tunisia of the ICHI, its first plenary session in Africa, Tunisian Prime Minister Mzali, a member of the commission, said in his opening statement that the African continent, the cradle of the first human beings on earth, has now fallen prey to a series of disastrous calamities. There was a serious risk that the much desired development would be overtaken by ruin.

PROFOUND CONCERN was expressed at the meeting for the humanitarian consequences of the grave crisis unfolding on the African continent. The magnitude of the crisis demands the most urgent response from the international community to buttress the efforts of all African governments in seeking solutions to the crisis and in combatting its dire consequences.

The extent of the problem is such that hardly a country on the continent has been left untouched by the cycle of poverty, hunger, disease and degradation of the environment. It is estimated that in 1984 five million infants alone will die in Africa.

The humanitarian crisis in Africa does not stem from a single cause, nor are its solutions to be found in a simple formula. Its roots lie in a complex interaction between external and internal forces. The international economic environment has severely, and in some cases decisively, compounded Africa's poverty and neutralised much of the development efforts made by African governments and peoples over the last three decades. High energy prices, high interest rates, declining terms of trade, growing protectionism and debilitating debt burdens have diminished the resilience of African economies.

Exacerbating Africa's present precarious situation is the immediate threat to International Development Agency (IDA's) funds and relevant programmes of the World Bank on which Africa's poorest countries rely — a threat resulting directly from the policies adopted by some of the richest countries. The predicament faced by IDA is a major and unwarranted blow to Africa at a time of its greatest need. Similarly International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies have been insensitive to Africa's current financial problems, most of which stem from factors far beyond the control of African governments.

Ultimately, only Africans can devise solutions for the problems of Africa. Discussion within and among African states has generated massive humanitarian problems directly, and indirectly through its negative impact of development efforts. Response to, or preparation for, armed conflicts has led to a disproportionate investment of scarce resources in armaments. The best interests of African peoples also demand a forthright approach to internal problems of economic mis-

management and corruption. An improvement in the current situation depends on a determined strategy to combat poverty, pioneered by Africans for Africans and supported by the international community.

Our sense of common humanity demands the recognition that the daunting problems faced by Africa are not Africa's alone — whether in their making, their implications, or in the solution that must be found to them. They are problems which Africa share with the world. Global co-operation in meeting them is not peripheral but central to the survival of millions of human beings and also a test of international community commitment to humanitarian values.

The commission is acutely conscious of the colossal problems being faced by many countries due to the massive movements of populations, refugees and displaced persons as well as the problems of armed conflicts in many areas. However, at this stage of its work, the commission has concentrated primarily on basic needs and the effects of drought and desertification on African life. Our conclusions are at once grave and serious.

We have noted that continuous and widespread drought, exacerbated by the mis-management of the range ecology, has ensured that virtually the whole of Africa is engaged in a struggle for survival. Rainfall in parts of Western Africa is at its lowest point for half a century. Drought is now a permanent feature in some countries as they enter their tenth year without rain.

Acute food shortages are endemic in half the countries of Africa. Over 150 million people face mass starvation and an accelerating decline in their standard of living. Food production per person has fallen on average by 11 per cent, since 1970. As economies continue to deteriorate, hunger and malnutrition become endemic.

Extensive hush fires have accompanied the drought in many areas. These destroy not only people's homes and villages, but irreplaceable plants, trees and animals — that is, the inherited genetic stock of a region — adding a serious ecological twist to the disaster. The loss of African top soil is more serious than anywhere else in the world, and in West Africa has led already to a reduction in corn yields of 52 per cent, and in legumes of 38 per cent.

Perversely, in some areas sav-

age flooding, following drought, has devastated remaining crops and destroyed the local infrastructure. Thousands of families have been uprooted as a consequence.

The vicious, downward spiral thus unleashed is accelerating. Shortly it could be out of control.

Food and water remain key components for all African communities. But for many farmers, seeds for the 1984 harvest have already been eaten, as the only means to immediate survival. Where seeds are available, they are often beyond the purchasing power of the farmer; available funds for fertilisers, well digging, agricultural production and animal husbandry are no longer adequate; people are migrating from drought stricken areas to overcrowded camps, villages or towns in adjacent areas, regardless of national boundaries, or the inability of the area to cope with the massive influx of new populations. The status and future of these people remains unclear.

The hardship being endured is at high human cost. It has been estimated that five million infants alone will die in Africa in 1984. Physically and mentally, millions of African children will be adversely affected, for life, as a result of their experience over the last five years. For those who have survived, genetic changes resulting from malnutrition in pre and immediate post natal babies, may be passed on, through the female child, to the unborn of the future.

At most, only a quarter of the people of Africa have access to safe drinking water, so that water borne diseases continue to afflict the majority. Even fewer people have access to preventative health care programmes, resulting in malnutrition, high infant mortality and low life expectancy.

As if these afflictions were not enough to debilitate the most resilient of societies, stagnant economies and high population growth, including the highest fertility rate in the world, ensure that per capita income is less now than it was, ten years ago in many of Africa's poorer countries.

In parts of Africa only half the urban labour force is employed and in the last five years trade has declined by some 50 per cent. The inevitable loss of foreign earnings, is equivalent to the total aid received by the continent — the one, making a mockery of the other. The fall in commodity prices is little short of calamitous whilst the cost of servicing debt, last year, south of the Sahara, is estimated to have increased by 60 per cent. Elsewhere, increase in excess of 25 per cent are not unusual. 1984 will see a further deterioration on present trends.

Meanwhile, armed conflict and violence, in certain parts of Africa, add unnecessary bloodshed and

burdens as onerous in terms of their own economies, as those of the major debtor countries. This problem demands the most urgent consideration by the international financial community.

D) Oil producing countries should take the initiative in negotiating a minimum five year agreement to supply oil at special prices advantageous to the 24 worst hit countries of Africa.

Long term

A) In co-operation with the research institutions of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, a Comprehensive African cereal, vegetable and fruit gene bank should be established on the continent as a major facility so that the rich genetic diversity in Africa, including wild species, can be stored, classified and regenerated true to type, for use primarily by African plant breeders, but linked to world conservation strategies throughout the international data bank system of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the global policies of the "International Board of Plant Genetic Resources".

B) Anti-desertification plans, based on small scale, community oriented, social development schemes, should be implemented on a regional basis. Africans have successfully implemented many agroforestry tree and crop programmes as well as effective micro catchment water projects, particularly in the Upper Volta, Niger, Algeria, Morocco and Senegal. These should be studied and replicated systematically, as feasible, across the continent.

C) In respect of the critical loss of top soil, African governments should commission regionally based research to:

(i) Quantify and evaluate loss of top soil and the cost effect of this on food production, and the silting up of rivers, deltas and harbours.

(ii) Study and introduce where applicable techniques of minimum tillage, together with contour farming, agroforestry and other well established anti-desertification techniques.

(iii) In co-operation with the International Council for Research in Agroforestry, establish regional centres for applied research into agroforestry and tree cropping applicable to given geographical territories.

Whilst many Africans in the past, had learned to live in harmony with their natural habitat, no effective measures are being taken by governments to make their people aware of the long term cost to a nation's economy of the loss of the loss of top soil, or the direct link between reduced productivity and soil erosion.

C) The debts owed by most African countries, though small in absolute terms, impose on them

Short term

A) Carefully controlled and managed food aid, where applicable, with a predetermined and finite life span, should be sent to the most stricken areas immediately. Such relief programmes should be designed so as to encourage development and not dampen local food production. The cost of transporting food aid is beyond the capacity of many African governments, especially the land locked least developed countries. It is essential, therefore, that donor agencies bear these costs themselves, together with the costs of setting up strategically placed local food storage depots. These will need, in turn, to be supported by depots for spare parts, and fuel for trucks, trains and other means of mechanical transport. There is evidence that the suffering of the people, and the steady rise in death from starvation is aggravated by the closure, or erratic use of key roads, railways or port facilities. Our common humanity demands that all such facilities should be open to ease the flow of aid and trade.

B) The provision of improved pricing structures and additional credit facilities to small scale farmers to enable them to buy good quality seeds, tools and fertilisers, and to improve the management of local water and irrigation schemes.

C) The debts owed by most African countries, though small in absolute terms, impose on them

the degradation of life itself.

D) Tree planting should be a national priority in every African country. School children, university undergraduates and similar groups including the army could co-operate in maintaining the momentum. Support from the specialised agencies of the U.N., the World Bank and NGO's, is essential if funding and specialised techniques are to be used to optimum advantage. Extension services at village level, should feature prominently in regional strategies, with ownership of the trees clearly falling to village people.

E) Preventive health care schemes, also should be priority for all countries. The links between nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, clean water and health, should be taught to people at village level. U.N. and NGO donor agencies have a major supporting role to play in encouraging this development.

F) More attention and support to production, storage and marketing of food for local consumption, long term pricing policies, designed to encourage production, should be studied and implemented. Increased resources should be dedicated to agricultural research and to the provision of the necessary infrastructure to support increased food production. Emphasis on mono culture, production for export markets and energy intensive cultivation must be carefully considered in the light of local consumption patterns and needs.

G) Finally, but most importantly, people must be party to resolving their own problems and help in the process of designing the schemes which will lead to their resolution. Self-reliance cannot be imposed from the top, but leadership can ensure that the innate skills, knowledge and resilience of the people is harnessed to combat the causes of poverty. This will not become a dynamic process across the faces of Africa unless literacy levels are raised dramatically. Mass literacy campaigns at village level, which aim to motivate rural communities to understand their key role in maintaining a balanced range ecology, and drawing on traditional African methods are essential. Although the scope of the humanitarian issues to be addressed specifically by the Independent Commission is relatively limited and will not include a detailed report on the situation in Africa, we felt that, at our first plenary meeting in this continent, it would be useful to share our thoughts and concerns regarding the overall situation in the hope that they would be helpful to future national and regional planning. Our statement is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all the problems faced by Africans today, nor of possible solutions to them.



Catalan elections reflect mounting nationalist trend

By Luis Carliño
 Reuter

MADRID — A nationalist landslide in last Sunday's Catalan elections has revealed an erosion of support for Spain's Socialist government and fuelled demands from Catalonia and the Basque Country for more self-rule.

The Conservative Convergence and Union Party (CIU) of Catalan President Jordi Pujol gained 29 seats to a 72-seat majority in the 135-seat autonomous parliament.

The Socialists came second with 41 seats, a rise of eight from the 1980 regional elections, but abstention reduced their share of the vote from general and regional polls.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who made his first campaign appearance since his 1982 national election victory to call for a bigger turnout, told reporters: "We are going through a stage, in which the government's policies are suffering some erosion."

The 36-per-cent abstention, mostly by Left-wing voters, showed disenchantment with the government's tough economic and industrial policies, other Socialist leaders said.

The CIU win in Catalonia, two months after a similar victory by conservative nationalists in the Basque region, boosted the demands of the two fiercely independent northern regions for more autonomy from Madrid.

Political commentators say the Socialists, who concede that votes "borrowed" from the centre of the political spectrum accounted for one third of their 10-million 1982 election total, lost the centrist vote to the CIU and failed to stir its own electorate into action.

"An important segment of the left has not voted socialist, in a shift motivated by the economic crisis," said Catalan Socialist leader Josep Maria Trinxer.

Communist leader Enrique Curiel said the Catalan Left had expressed its rejection of tough austerity measures.

Industrial Catalonia, with unemployment two points above the national rate of 18.5 per cent, is a major focus of labour opposition to government plans to restructure loss-making heavy industries through job and production cuts.

The 1982 socialist elections platform included the creation of 800,000 new jobs in Spain.

"The Catalan electorate has said clearly that the change promised by the party is not what we're seeing and that, unless a real change is brought about, they won't even bother to go to the polls," said Pablo Castellanos, leader of a left-wing faction of the Socialist Party.

The CIU win also strengthened the hand of Pujol and Basque Prime Minister Carlos Garaikoetxea — re-elected for a second four-year term in February — in their dispute with Madrid over the transfer of powers to their regional governments.

Home-rule statutes for Catalonia and the violence-plagued Basque Country were approved in 1979 and 1980 respectively, but a national law later divided Spain into 17 autonomous regions in a bid to standardise the system.

Its provisions included a measure of regional control over local economy, health, education and tourism. But nationalists say it sought to reduce the powers granted to the only two regions with a clear separate identity.

The law was ruled unconstitutional by the supreme court last year. Gonzalez offered to negotiate pending transfers of funding and responsibilities, but the nationalists say the socialists have effectively blocked the measures. They also accuse them of trying

to whip up anti-nationalist sentiment among the immigrants from impoverished southern Spain which make up about half the population of the two regions.

Catalan Socialist candidate Raimon Obiols acknowledged the need for a new strategy when he conceded defeat to Pujol. "We notice a certain erosion of the nationalist vote that went to the socialists in previous elections," he said.

The main national opposition, the rightist Popular Alliance (AP), welcomed the CIU win as a setback for the government, but the poll also raised doubts over the chances of the AP to beat the socialists in general elections expected in 1986.

On education and virtue

'The Verger'

By Somerset Maugham

THE EARLY life of W. Somerset Maugham was unhappy. He was born in France of English parents who both died when he was still a boy. He went to England to live in the cold, stern atmosphere of his uncle's home. As a boy, Maugham described himself as "shy, uncertain, afflicted with a stammer, but also imaginative and responsive." He wanted to be a writer, but, instead, studied medicine at his uncle's insistence. After a year's internship in the Lambeth alms of London, he suffered an attack of tuberculosis and soon left to travel on the Continent, where he began writing. He has become one of the most accomplished storytellers of our time. He has travelled the world over and gathered tale along the way — stories and novels, and plays with strange incidents, odd characters, with often exotic setting. One secret of his popularity lies in his stated purpose — entertainment. "Pleasure, he says, "is in itself good." Although Maugham does not make a special pleading for the poor and underprivileged, he depicts the upper classes with an irony that is often malicious.

Maugham's short story, "The Verger," is one of his best known stories. It has been filmed with two more under the title "T". Albert Edward Foreman was forced to resign his post as a verger of St. Peter's Church in London because he couldn't read and write. He was summoned to the new vicar's office where the two church wardens were present.

The vicar began briskly. "Foreman, we've got something rather unpleasant to say to you. You've been here a great many years and I think his lordship and the general agree with me that you've fulfilled the duties of your office to the satisfaction of everybody

concerned."

The two churchwardens nodded.

"But a most extraordinary circumstance came to my knowledge the other day and I felt it my duty to impart it to the churchwardens. I discovered to my astonishment that you could neither read nor write."

The verger's face betrayed no sign of embarrassment.

"The last vicar knew that, sir," he replied. "He said it didn't make no difference. He always said there was a great deal too much education in the world for its taste."

"It's the most amazing thing I ever heard," cried the general. "Do you mean to say that you've been verger of this church for sixteen years and never learned to read or write?"

"I went into service when I was twelve, sir. The cook in the first place tried to teach me once; but I didn't seem to 'ave the knack for it, and then what with one thing and another I never seemed to 've the time. I've never really found the want of it. I think a lot of these young fellows waste a lot of time reading when they might be doing something useful."

"Well, Foreman, I've talked the matter over with these gentlemen and they quite agree with me that the situation is impossible. At a church like St. Peter's, Neville Square, we cannot have a verger who can neither read nor write."

Albert Edward's thin, yellow face reddened and he moved uneasily on his feet, but he made no reply.

"Understand me, Foreman, I have no complaint to make against you. You do your work quite satisfactorily. I have the highest opinion both of your character and of your capacity; but we haven't the right to take the risk of some accident that might happen owing to your lamentable ignorance. It's a

matter of prudence as well as of principle."

"But couldn't you learn, Foreman?" asked the general.

"No, sir, I'm afraid I couldn't — not now. You see, I'm not as young as I was, and, if I couldn't seem able to get the letters in me 'ead when I was a nipper, I don't think there's much chance of it now."

"We don't want to be harsh with you, Foreman," said the vicar. "But the churchwardens and I have quite made up our minds. We'll give you three months, and if at the end of that time you cannot read and write I'm afraid you'll have to go."

Albert Edward had never liked the new vicar. He'd said from the beginning that they'd made a mistake when they gave him St. Peter's. He wasn't the type of man they wanted with a classy congregation like that. And now he straightened himself a little. He knew his value and he wasn't going to allow himself to be put upon.

"I'm very sorry, sir, I'm afraid it's no good. I'm too old a dog to learn new tricks. I've lived a good many years without knowing how to read and write, and without wishing to praise myself — self-praise is no recommendation — I don't mind saying I've done my duty in that state of life in which it has pleased a merciful Providence to place me, and if I could learn now I don't know as I'd want to."

In that case, Foreman, I'm afraid you must go."

Foreman did actually resign. He sighed as he thought of all the grand funerals and smart weddings.... He could not imagine "going back to domestic service; after being his own master for so many years."

Although a non-smoker, Albert Edward Foreman thought a cigarette could comfort him. He "looked about him for a shop where he could buy a

packet of Gold Flakes." He could not find a shop to buy cigarettes along the long street.

"I can't be the only man as walks along this street and wants a fag," he said. "I shouldn't wonder but what a fellow might do very well with a little shop here. Tobacco and sweets, you know."

He thought of a shop to let that may suit him. He found one: he established a business as a "tobacconist and news agent." He did so well that in the course of ten years he had acquired no less than ten shops and he was making good money. One morning when he was at the bank, "paying in a bundle of notes and a heavy bag of silver, the cashier told him that the manager would like to see him. He told Foreman that he made a fortune of £30,000 and advised him to invest that large sum of money. He told the manager that he "never had anything to do with stocks and shares and I've to leave it all in your hands." The manager smiled and promised Foreman to do everything, but explained that the latter's signature on some transfers was necessary.

"I could do that all right," said Albert uncertainly. "But how should I know what I was signing?"

"I suppose you can read," said the manager a trifle sharply.

Mr. Foreman gave him a disarming smile.

"Well, sir, that's just it. I can't. I know it sounds funny like, but there it is! I can't read or write — only me name, an' I only learned to do that when I went into business."

The manager was so surprised that he jumped up from his chair.

"That's the most extraordinary thing I ever heard."

"You see, it's like this, sir — I never had the opportunity until it was too late, and then somehow I wouldn't. I got obstinate like."

The manager stared at him as though he were a prehistoric monster.

"And do you mean to say that you've built up this important business and amassed a fortune of thirty thousand pounds without being able to read or write? Good God, man, what would you be now if you had been able to?"

"I can tell you that, sir," said Mr. Foreman, a little smile on his still aristocratic features. "I'd be verger of St. Peter's, Neville Square."

Despite all that sudden wealth then, the old man still cared for his old job, the job with which he achieved self-actualisation.

Maugham's hero as revealed.

by conversation and action refuses to meet the conditions imposed by his superiors, and thus maintains his own independence as well as confidence in his own worth.

Having dug down deep enough into the story by now, one can safely conclude that the mood in it is comic rather than tragic. The whole story is built up like a good joke; and like a good joke it ends with a quip which is at the same time inevitable and surprising. His comic spirit does not mean that Maugham is without a serious purpose. To state his purpose, he poses many very serious questions: Is there any necessary connection between learning and virtue? Can an education be used for harmful ends as well as for good? Why do we respect a vicar more than a verger, or for that matter, a bank president more than a janitor?

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's

Apples once more

THIS FRIEND who was preparing the list of dishes she meant to prepare for a dinner she was giving a few days later ended it with the traditional fruit basket.

I looked at her not understanding: "What do you intend to put in this basket?" I asked. She answered: "Oranges, bananas, some" and she paused and I'll say said, "you are right there are not really any fruits to offer. I will cross out the fruit basket."

And then she resumed as if talking to herself, there is no point in trying to make a fruit salad as, unless I use sour plums (amaru) or green almonds, she said ironically. I went on perfunctorily, "You can also cross out the apple pie."

"But I do it well," she started, and then, "my God you're absolutely right, I had forgotten it is by force of habit I always used to make apple pies for my dinners, and, fuming, she crossed out the pie from her list.

"You know something," she said, "I never really liked stewed apples but since we have been deprived of apples, I dream of this dish. And my children asked me the other day to make them apple jam." Finally, she said laughing, "you know what the family asked Jihad to bring back when he went to Saudi Arabia a few days ago?"

"No, not the classical electrical appliances that are very cheap there, but a box of apples."

ICHIHI seeks urgent action to save Africa

(Continued from page 1)

Swiss Confederation, two judges from the International Court of Justice, the prime minister of Tunisia, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, the chairwoman of the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and a former minister of foreign affairs from Austria among others. The twenty people who attended out of a total of twenty-five world personalities were there in their personal capacities. It is true that their international standing and moral influence were such that few governments would dare to ignore their pleas. But how much can a plea fetch in terms of money and action.

The immaculate conception!

Back to Sidi Hassan, the father of the child whose mother was the United Nations General Assembly. How did he get this group going and what does he hope to achieve by it? Can he for instance introduce into the discussion the plight of Palestine alongside the crisis of Africa to justify to his king and people the amount of time and effort he is putting into the project? I asked one European member of the commission. The commissioner replied that the commission makes no room for a certain case, but rather takes stands on universal humanitarian issues avoiding specifics in order not to be charged with bias. The commission, he said wryly, can be considered a vulnerable group and its chairman in the most of vulnerable positions!

In reviewing the birth of the

commission, it felt like reading about the immaculate conception. ICHIHI was born in the United Nations but disclaimed as a true daughter of the world organisation. For after Prince Hassan's address in the U.N. General Assembly in 1981 in which he proposed the establishment of a new global humanitarian order alongside the other global orders which were being sought, "a group of eminent persons from all parts of the world responded to the deeply felt need to enhance public awareness of important humanitarian issues and to promote an international climate favouring progress in the humanitarian field", so wryly says the ICHIHI booklet. It seemed to tread on its toes while describing how the commission came into being.

After adopting a resolution by consensus in Dec. 1981 in which the U.N. General Assembly bore in mind that "institutional arrangements and actions of governmental and non-governmental bodies need to be further strengthened to respond actively in situations requiring humanitarian action," the assembly adopted last year by consensus also a further resolution relating to the international humanitarian order noting that "the proposal for the establishment, outside the United Nations framework of an independent commission on international humanitarian issues composed of leading personalities in the humanitarian field or having wide experience of government or world affairs." Thus ICHIHI was born out of Jupiter's bead, in this case Sidi Hassan's. The mother who felt the need for the child was

not willing to claim it for fear of its being naughty or truthful enough to call a spade a spade.

Calling a spade a spade

It has been in fact heard of some commission's members desiring to call a spade a spade in world affairs. And while some preferred to sit back and pontificate ethically on world issues, others wanted a pragmatic approach where the commission can ask for less in order to get more rather than make ringing pronouncements. A very likeable commissioner asked in fact his colleagues to ponder the so-called triangular relationship of man to himself, to other and to nature. And I remarked to myself, he better read the Holy Koran.

But that is perhaps what Sidi Hassan had exactly done and found it all. In the aircraft, on the way to Tunis, the Crown Prince was spotted reading the Koran from which he invariably quoted: "O ye bumanbeing, you shall be; toiling for the Lord your God and receiving your reward."

How much does this relate to Africa, the Middle East and the world's dire condition? Some think that Sidi Hassan can in the end bring relief to Africa, not through the U.N. or the penny pinching industrial world but through a more enlightened Islamic approach to Islamic economic co-operation. The Prince, it is said, has not washed his hands yet of the projected Arab economic co-operation as expressed by the Amman Arab Summit. Both Islamic and Arab economic co-operation complement each other and the Prince may be trying to

benefit by the momentum generated by the last Islamic summit on economic co-operation.

Jordan, as one observer put it, had gone a long way in the elaboration of concepts which it is ready to put at the disposal of the Muslim World for practical application. Turkey, which had been assigned the role of follow-up on Muslim economic co-operation had shown great interest in the Jordanian experience and showed willingness to act with Jordan as catalysts in the Arab and Muslim spheres.

A grand decision

Sidi Hassan's grand design may have been showing in the meetings of ICHIHI in Tunis. Some of his remarks indicated a desire for conceptual linkage of energy questions, which are of prime concern to the world, with the issues of poverty and hunger as manifested in the African syndrome. In other words, the Crown Prince may well be driven by an enlightened Islamic vision of middle-roadness.

"For ye have been made a middle nation so that ye can witness to the world and the Prophet can witness to you." A favourite quote from the Koran which Sidi Hassan often recites.

The ICHIHI meeting recommended short and long term measures for dealing with the African crisis. The commission is a lobby, a tribunal and a school of thought all at once. The concepts worked out in it may well serve as a pad for the next Jordanian development plan. And Jordan may well show the way again.

Egypt's ex-queen finds solace in painting

By Dina Matar

CAIRO — Ex-Queen Farida of Egypt is back in Cairo with a new exhibition of her oil paintings she calls her "children."

"My paintings are the children of my memories," said Farida, who was divorced by the late King Farouk and later driven into exile during the rule of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Farida, 63, but looking much younger, now lives in Switzerland. "My years away from Egypt have been a great test. It used to irritate me when I did not know what was happening next. Now, I

am beginning to accept that more easily," she told Reuters in an interview.

Farida has been painting since 1954. She said she later became a professional artist to support her three daughters after the Egyptian government confiscated her property and she had to leave Egypt.

Her exhibition, her second in Cairo, is called "Farida d'Egypte." She has held exhibitions in other cities including Paris and Geneva.

"There is no name for my art. What makes my pictures different is the light which I use to bring out life and movement," she said.

Landscapes, many of Egypt, predominate at the exhibition at a Cairo hotel. Farida uses changing artificial light to illuminate her canvases.

"I use a special dimming device to create the illusion indoors of the ever-changing landscape under the sun, and give the impression of continuity," she said.

Farida, the Safinaz, Zulfikar, was divorced by Farouk after 11 years of marriage in 1949. The monarchy was overthrown three years later and Farouk himself was exiled.

The ex-queen left Cairo in 1963

for Lebanon and later went to Paris. She was invited back to Egypt by the late President Anwar Sadat and now owns a flat in Cairo, where she comes to work on her paintings.

Would she come back to live in Egypt? — "No, I don't think so, life is too difficult here," she said. "The noise, the din make me nervous and effect my work. I also want to stay near my children."

Farida's view of Egypt has changed. "You know, when I was queen I did not mix with people, real people. Now, everything is different. I see Egypt from a different angle," she said.

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United finally gets their man

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Manchester United's 13-year wait to sign Gordon Strachan finally came to an end Wednesday when the Scottish international signed a four-year contract with the English soccer giants.

United, who will pay newly-crowned Scottish Champions Aberdeen £500,000 (\$700,000) for the World Cup midfielder, have been chasing Strachan since he was a schoolboy in 1971.

At the time, however, Strachan, now 27, decided to join local club Dundee before moving to Aberdeen in 1977. United made another attempt to lure him south 12 months ago but that bid also ended in failure.

Capped 26 times, the diminutive Strachan is one of Europe's outstanding midfielders and the news will come as a blow to West German Bundesliga side Cologne, who were also chasing his signature.

Strachan, who will not join United until after the Scottish Cup final against Celtic on May 19, has been signed as a replacement for England international Ray Wilkins, currently in Italy for signing talks with AC Milan.

Hints emerge Soviet Union may still take part in Games

LONDON (R) — Hints were dropped Wednesday that the Soviet Union might reverse its decision not to take part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in July if the United States gave certain assurances.

The hints came from Soviet central committee member Georgi Arbatov and a senior Soviet sports official.

Arbatov appeared in a U.S. television programme with Peter Ueberroth, President of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee, who met President Reagan Tuesday.

Ueberroth said he hoped there could be a reversal of the boycott decision which Moscow announced Tuesday, after complaining for months about U.S. handling of the games and alleged dangers to Soviet athletes.

"I think they will receive assurances from the president of the United States, assurances from our government that they will protect the (Soviet) athletes. I think there's at least one more page to turn," Ueberroth said.

Arbatov said: "Well, you know I would be glad if it would materialise because I'm sure Soviet athletes and other people would like to compete with Americans, and have good feelings towards American athletes and towards American fans and people in general."

Arbatov said Moscow needed assurances that "there will be normal conditions" at the Olympics. Athletes must be protected not only from physical harm but

also harassment by demonstrators and "attempts to kidnap you or to seduce you to leave your country."

Los Angeles city officials were stunned by Moscow's decision but they put on a brave face, declaring that the event would still not lose money.

Unofficial estimates by city officials said the absence of the Soviet athletes could cost at least \$100 million in lost television revenue, unwanted hotel rooms and smaller crowds.

The losses could be higher if the Soviet Union's East European allies also boycott the games.

Poland's Olympic committee said it would meet within the next few days to discuss the Soviet decision which caused shock and dismay in many countries.

A Romanian embassy spokesman in Vienna said Tuesday night his country would take part despite the Soviet move.

Many western commentators saw the Soviet decision as a reaction to the U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Britain urged the Soviet Union Wednesday to think again about its decision to boycott the Los Angeles Olympics.

"We very much regret the apparent decision by the Soviet National Olympic Committee not to

participate in the Olympics," the foreign office said. "We hope they will reconsider it."

Willy Daume, President of West Germany's Olympic Committee, also voiced hopes that Moscow would change its mind.

He said such a possibility could be inferred because Moscow's decision had come so suddenly after it had long been expected that nothing would be decided until May 26.

"I can imagine that people in the Soviet Union believe that they can induce some movement in Los Angeles with this signal," Daume said.

He said International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch must go quickly to Moscow because "this affair is the Olympic movement's business and I cannot see any mediator coming from outside sport."

In Rome, the President of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), Primo Nebiolo, said Wednesday the Soviet decision was no surprise but there was still hope that Moscow would change its mind.

Nebiolo said he planned to meet heads of sports federations as soon as possible to try to find a solution. "I have a conviction that we can do something. Hope is the last to die."

He is also president of the International Olympic (Summer) Federation set up by the IOC last May to represent the 23 sports federations taking part in the games.

W.Germany beats Britain in European tennis

AMMAN (J.T.) — A West German tennis team defeated a British team 4-1 Wednesday in the finals of the European Day tennis tournament.

The tournament, organised by European embassies in Amman to commemorate European Day, May 9, was held at the British ambassador's residence.

May 9 is remembered as the day Robert Schuman proposed the creation of the European Steel and Coal Community.

In the semi-finals held on May 5, West Germany beat Italy 5-0 and Britain defeated France 4-1.

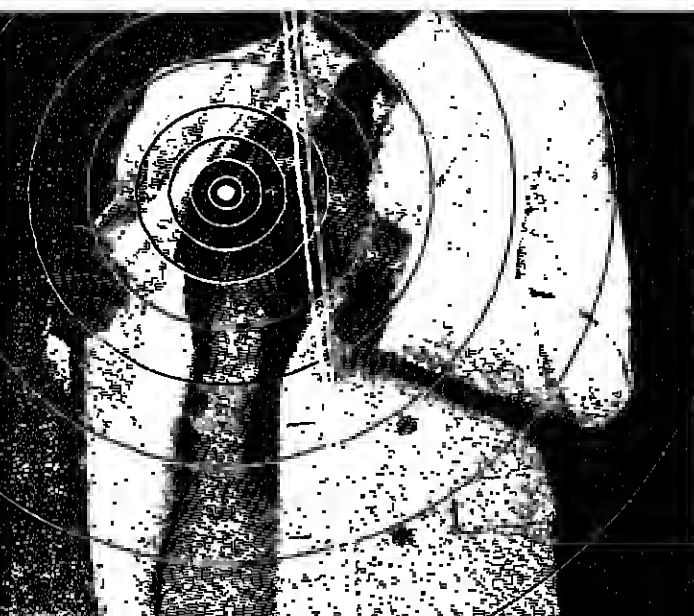
British soccer fan killed in Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police said Wednesday a bar-keeper had confessed to shooting dead an 18-year-old London soccer fan in Brussels' sleazy red light district as more violence erupted before Wednesday night's UEFA Cup final.

Irishman Brian Flanagan, of Finsbury Park, North London, was shot dead after a street brawl between Tottenham Hotspur supporters and Belgian youths outside a brothel. A gunman fired at least six shots at the English fan.

Flanagan, hit in the heart and abdomen, staggered into the nearest bar but died before an ambulance arrived.

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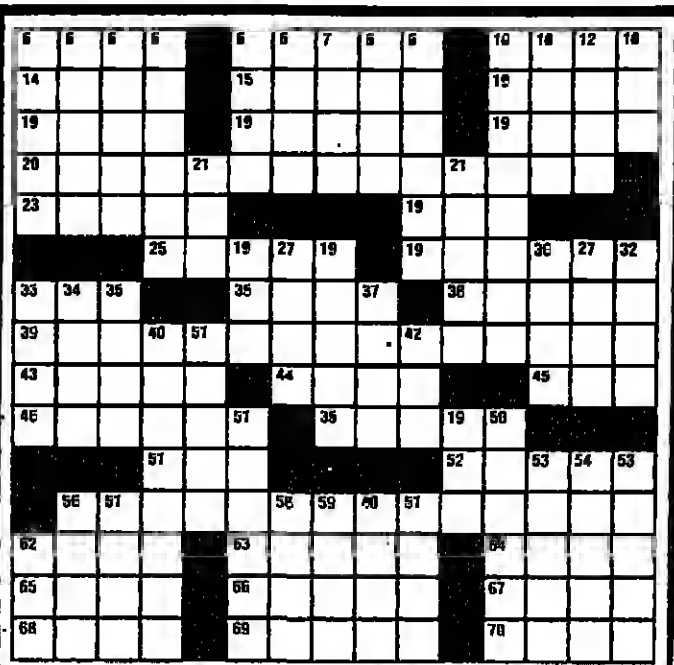
THE Daily Crossword

by CF Murray

ACROSS	24 Guido's note	56 Shakespeare monarch	26 Mao — tung
1 "My — Duchess"	25 Appraises	62 Brusque	27 Exile
5 Spills over	29 Agitated state	63 Incensed	28 Healthy
10 Expense	33 Jap. admiral	64 Fr. cheese	30 Tool handle
14 Rose's fellow	36 Type of gin volcano	65 Fluff	31 She: Fr.
15 Martinique	38 Down-under "bear"	66 Multiplication word	32 Comedienne
16 Bread spread	39 Puocini heroine	67 Ireland	33 Muslim leader
17 Warning word	43 Isolated	68 — dixit	34 Story
18 Spry	44 Against	69 Leavening	35 Aroma
19 Gold	45 Golf peg	70 Stall notation	37 "— Bruta"
20 brocade	46 Earns	DOWN	40 Liqueur
21 John Webster heroine	48 Fr. author	1 Cheryl and Alan	41 Poetic rhythm: var.
23 Ranch animal	51 Mrs. in Max.	2 Circa	42 Conway the comic
	52 Wind deposit	3 From the time that	47 Soundness of mind
		4 Restrain	49 — carts
		5 Wataring place	50 Crying
		6 Props	53 Strange
		7 Medley	54 Agitates
		8 Ill-gotten gain	55 Stationary unit
		9 Appeared	56 Witty response
		10 One who assembles	57 Coffee servers
		11 Norwegian royal name	58 Border lake
		12 Truck's rig	59 Tibetan monk
		13 Pedicure item	60 Natives: suff.
		21 Memorabilia	61 Elan
		22 Similar	62 151

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. My — Duchess; 5. Spills over; 10. Expense; 14. Rose's fellow; 15. Martinique; 16. Bread spread; 17. Warning word; 18. Spry; 19. Gold; 20. brocade; 21. John Webster heroine; 23. Ranch animal; 24. Guido's note; 25. Appraises; 29. Agitated state; 33. Jap. admiral; 36. Type of gin volcano; 38. Down-under "bear"; 39. Puocini heroine; 43. Isolated; 44. Against; 45. Golf peg; 46. Earns; 48. Fr. author; 51. Mrs. in Max.; 52. Wind deposit; 56. Shakespeare monarch; 62. Brusque; 63. Incensed; 64. Fr. cheese; 65. Fluff; 66. Multiplication word; 67. Ireland; 68. — dixit; 69. Leavening; 70. Stall notation; 26. Mao — tung; 27. Exile; 28. Healthy; 30. Tool handle; 31. She: Fr.; 32. Comedienne; 33. Muslim leader; 34. Story; 35. Aroma; 37. "— Bruta"; 40. Liqueur; 41. Poetic rhythm: var.; 42. Conway the comic; 47. Soundness of mind; 49. — carts; 50. Crying; 53. Strange; 54. Agitates; 55. Stationary unit; 56. Witty response; 57. Coffee servers; 58. Border lake; 59. Tibetan monk; 60. Natives: suff.; 61. Elan; 62. 151.



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Let French food stimulate your senses

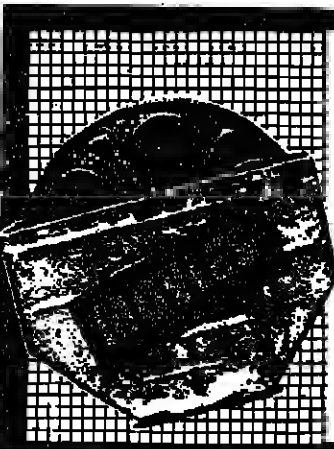
Have you ever wondered why the French nation is celebrated the world over for its wonderful food? It's because there is something special about the way French food is grown, made, prepared, cooked and consumed that stimulates all your senses so enjoyably. When you see its fine quality and the appetising way in which it is displayed, the exciting stimulation process has already started. At the same time, you begin to smell its overall aroma and detect with delight

the more gentle fragrances hidden within. And, before you taste its delicious flavour and vital freshness, you may also feel the substances of its many rich textures. Even the sounds of preparation and conviviality whet your appetite, contributing to the whole rewarding and memorable experience of eating French food. Et voilà! as the French would exclaim with appreciation, your senses have been duly stimulated. Eat French food every day and enjoy a stimulating life.

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Hi Way — Ifco — Green Valley — Babel — Safeway — Jordan Supermarket
IRBID — MAY 15 - MAY 18
Hawdon Supermarket — Als Supermarket — Irbid Supermarket
AQABA — MAY 22 - MAY 24
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Cinema Tel: 25155
RAINBOW

WE ARE NO ANGELS
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30

Cinema Tel: 23171
ZAHARAN

WHAT SHALL WE DO
(Colour)
"Italian Film"

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 30126
BASMAN

KORANG
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema Tel: 22117
PALESTINE

1- SAAS
"Indian film"
2- RETURN TO ROOM 36
"Karate"
(Colour)

Performances: 12-3-7

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RAGHADAN

SAMRAAT
(Colour)
"Indian film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Australian firms to hold major trade display at Holiday Inn

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Australian ambassador, Mr. Richard Gate, announced Wednesday that arrangements were proceeding for the Australian trade display which will be held at the Holiday Inn from May 27 to 31.

The Australian trade display in Amman, takes place against the background of broadened Australian trade effort in the Middle East and is the first major Australian display to be held in Jordan.

Australian exports to Jordan increased from \$4.6 million in 1979/80 to \$22.7 million in 1981/82, but fell to \$9.9 million in 1982/83.

The main export items in 1982/83 were electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances for \$4 million; live sheep for \$3.8 million; and meat and edible offals for \$727,000.

Australian imports from Jordan

have increased from \$161,000 in 1981/82 to \$4.1 million in 1982/83, including crude phosphatic fertilisers.

Twenty five companies will be participating in the display which will be held in the Amman Ballroom at the Holiday Inn.

A broad range of Australian products and services will be on display including foodstuffs, building, automotive and industrial safety products, domestic appliances, industrial and irrigation equipment and agricultural consultancy services.

Australia's bilateral relations with Jordan are cordial. Australia signed a technical co-operation agreement with Jordan in 1977. The agreement provided for an exchange of technical knowledge and experts between the two countries with a view to furthering social and economic development.



Mr. Richard Gate

In January 1983, Australia and Jordan signed a memorandum of understanding relating to a dry land farming project.

The project, implemented for the Australian Development Assistance Bureau by the South Australian Department of Agriculture, is designed to introduce to Jordan a forage crop into the fallow phase of a cereal farming system.

The Australian government contribution for the project was \$1.24 million. The project is considered successful and Jordan has asked that the project be extended until 1987.

Australia will also be assisting Jordan in its efforts to increase the exports of phosphates and other products. Two Jordanian experts will be attending a course in international marketing to be held in Melbourne this month.

The display, which will be open to trade visitors each morning and afternoon, will be one of the largest trade displays held to date in Amman.

Major British banks raise base lending interest rates

LONDON (R) — The four major British banks Wednesday raised their base lending rates, but the moves failed to boost the British currency to a level just above Tuesday's all-time low against the resurgent dollar.

Two banks — National Westminster and Lloyds — raised their base rates to nine per cent from 8½ per cent.

Barclays upped its rate to 9½ per cent, while Midland jumped by ½ of a percentage point to 9½ per cent.

A spokesman for National Westminster said its move was necessary because of upward pressure being exerted by interest rates within the London money market, which in turn have been influenced by the rise of lending rates in the United States.

The pound touched an all-time low of \$1.3775 after several major U.S. banks had raised their prime lending rates to 12½ from 12 per cent.

Although sterling opened slightly stronger at \$1.3872 in London Wednesday, it lost half a cent after announcement of the base rate rises.

Dealers said they had been anticipated and that there was therefore no new incentive to buy sterling.

Though sterling has been relatively firm against other major currencies, a low pound rate against the dollar threatens higher inflation in Britain. Many raw materials, as well as imports from the U.S., are priced in dollars.

The rise in British base rates came shortly after a similar move in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Chartered Bank are to raise their prime rates by one

point to 12 per cent from Thursday.

Dealers said the moves were prompted by Tuesday's prime rate rise in the U.S. and were not unexpected.

The dollar itself appeared to mark time Wednesday after rising sharply since Friday, when its latest surge was sparked by a forecast from influential economist Mr. Henry Kaufman that interest rates would go "spectacularly higher" by early 1985.

In Frankfurt, the U.S. currency was fixed at 2.7769 marks, down nearly half a pfenning from Tuesday 2.7812. But many dealers expect the dollar to make further gains, especially in view of possible strikes in West Germany's engineering industry.

London dealers said the dollar's slight decline came mainly from profit-taking and that the currency remained well supported by firm U.S. interest rates.

White House blames Fed

In New York the Reagan administration the Federal Reserve (Fed), the independent U.S. central bank, were at odds Wednesday over an increase in the interest rate charged by banks to their most creditworthy corporate borrowers.

The rise in the prime rate to 12½ per cent from 12 per cent, begun by Chase Manhattan, was the third increase for the key rate in seven weeks and raised fears for the U.S. economic recovery and the ability of debtor nations in the Third World to pay off their massive loans.

The White House immediately put the blame on the Fed.

"We have been asking the Federal Reserve Board to allow sufficient monetary expansion to ensure non-inflationary growth," presidential spokesman Mr. Larry Speakes said. "It appears the money supply is not accommodating real economic growth."

He said inflation had been held in check for the past two years at five per cent and challenged the central bankers "to look at the record."

As he spoke, Wall Street was alive with speculation that the Fed was planning to raise the discount rate, which it charges on loans to banks, from the current nine per cent, in its effort to keep the recovery from sparking inflation.

Mr. Philip Braverman, of the Wall Street firm of Briggs, Schaeffle and company, said he believed the economy was strong enough to warrant Fed action and that the central bank might even move as soon as next week.

He also forecast, as did others, that there could be further prime rate rises as loan demand expanded and the cost of funds became dearer.

"There is a good chance we'll see a 13 per cent prime within the next couple of weeks," said Mr. Mark Wanshel, an economist with the Crocker National Bank.

The stock market reacted negatively to the news of the prime rate increase, but changed direction after the administration fired its salvo and closed higher.

"I think the market went up because the administration is being critical of the Federal Reserve policy that is causing the prime to rise," said Mr. Joseph Bench, an economist with Shearson-American Express.

Meanwhile, world central bankers Wednesday end a meeting on long-term issues for the global debt crisis with commercial bankers gloomy about whether new proposals will succeed.

The central bankers' three-day session was jolted by a rise in U.S. interest rates Tuesday, even though participants continued to stress that short-term problems were not under review.

"The conference is taking a long-term perspective and is not associated with any interest rate increase," said Mr. Peter Bakstansky, vice-president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, which is hosting the meeting.

The half-point rise to 12.5 per cent in U.S. prime rates was the third such increase in just two months.

But some officials admitted that it added urgency to a plan, pressed by officials of the Federal Reserve Board, to "cap" or limit interest rates which debtor nations are charged.

Commercial bankers said they were deeply divided over the plan, however, and unless they reconciled their views, the scheme seemed doomed to failure.

Several bankers argued that expanded world trade and economic discipline at home would pave the way for an eventual resolution of the debt crisis.

Others, however, said they feared that the Third World's \$700 billion debt demanded new solutions.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker Tuesday night addressed some 20 central bank officials, commercial bankers and representatives of international agencies at the closed-door session.

Despite the insistence of some officials that current interest rate trends were not crucial to the meeting, Mr. Volcker last week called rising rates "the greatest single threat" to Third World borrowers.

Federal Reserve officials and many private experts estimated that each percentage point rise added about \$3.5 billion to the financial burden of debtor nations.

The meeting is not due to end with a formal statement, but one Federal Reserve official said its conclusions would be debated at ministerial meetings later this month.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed easier on balance after a moderately active session. At 1500 the F.T. 30 share was off 4.9 to 899.9. It was last below the 900 level on April 26 this year and the record of 922.8 was set last Thursday.

The initial firmer trend in equities was reversed after the clearing banks put up their base lending rates by as much as ¼ point to 9½ per cent, dealers said.

Government bonds ended with net rises of up to ¼ point with opening higher trend on the back of U.S. credit markets attracting light selling interest. Golds gained modestly and North Americans were mixed.

ICI closed unchanged at 610 having opened 4p higher. Glaxo shed 10p to 845. BTR fell 6p to 874 while BOC lost 5p to 289 ahead of final figures Thursday.

Banks showed falls ranging to 10p as in Bank of Scotland at 317 but Barclays recovered a 2p fall at 479. Prudential was 10p off at 458 in lower insurance while oils ended narrowly mixed with Ultramar unchanged at 649 ahead of the interim Thursday.

Trafalgar was a penny off at 255 having touched 264 on the half-year report while Datastream closed at 533 up from the suspension price of 360 after the Dun and Bradstreet offer valued at 550p.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.3820/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2947/50	Canadian dollars
	2.7765/75	West German marks
	3.1225/35	Dutch guilders
	2.2853/63	Swiss francs
	56.37/40	Belgian francs
	8.5200/50	French francs
	1713.25/1714.25	Italian lire
	229.20/30	Japanese yen
	8.1200/50	Swedish crowns
	7.8370/8420	Norwegian crowns
	10.1325/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	372.60/373.10	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I wonder if there's a Loaf-a-holics Anonymous?"

Reagan's controversial chief economic adviser resigns

WASHINGTON (R) — Mr. Martin Feldstein, President Reagan's controversial chief economic adviser, announced his resignation Wednesday.

As chairman of Mr. Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, Mr. Feldstein has clashed in public with other administration officials over what he sees as the growing dangers of the record federal budget deficits.

Mr. Feldstein told reporters he planned to return to Harvard University on July 10 as a professor of economics. He also plans to serve as president of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private forecasting group.

The conservative economist is currently on leave from Harvard and had said he would eventually return there. He said that the July 10 date was of his own choosing. He said he had notified Mr. Reagan of his decision Tuesday in a letter.

Mr. Feldstein has expressed

concern that the huge budget deficits could have serious ill-effects on the American economy.

There was an echo of this only Tuesday when he appeared to provide some defence for the Federal Reserve Board after the White House had attacked the central bank over the latest rise in the banks' prime lending rate to 12½ per cent.

White House spokesman Mr. Larry Speakes said that interest rates were rising because the Federal Reserve was not supplying enough money to meet the demands of a growing economy.

But Mr. Feldstein said recent shifts in central bank policy were not inappropriate.

After the earlier increases this year in the prime rate, the White House asked the Federal Reserve board to allow sufficient growth in the money supply, but until Tuesday had stopped short of criticising the reserve, which is independent of the administration.

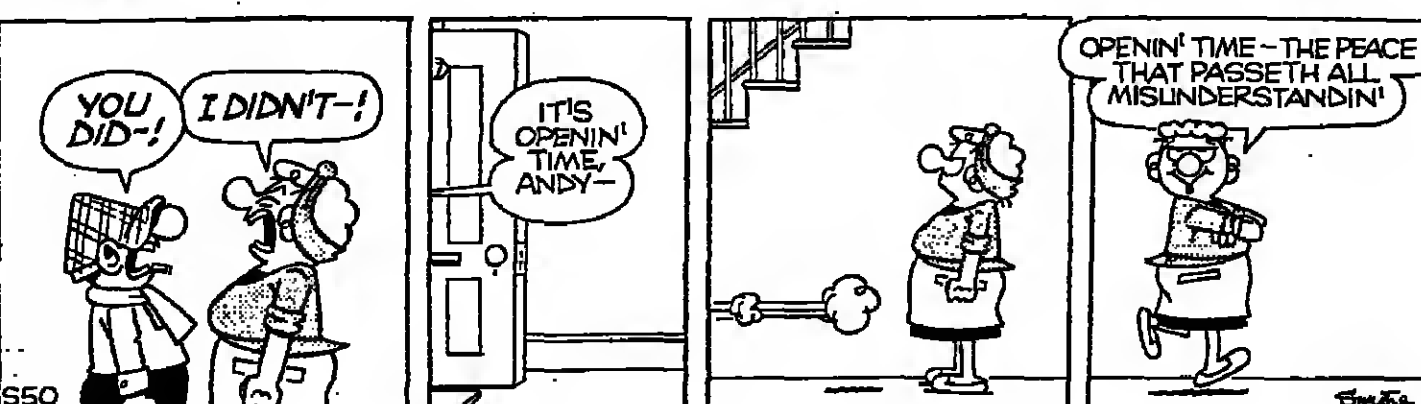
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



U.S., 12 states to hold informal trade dialogue

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Thursday starts three days of informal talks with 12 of its trading partners at a time when global protectionist pressures appear to be strengthening.

U.S. officials are playing down the importance of the discussions, noting the agenda is highly flexible and there will be an opportunity to assess trade conditions without the pressures that come with specific negotiations.

"This will be an informal meeting, not a decision-making meeting," a high-level trade official told Reuters.

Represented at the ministerial meeting will be Japan, Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Mexico, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Officials from the European Community, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will also attend.

In the past, trade representative Mr. Bill Brock had invited Japan, Canada and the community for talks but this year he decided to expand the gathering to include Third World countries.

The United States in recent years has seen a strengthening of its trade links with Asia and developing countries.

The closed talks are expected to centre on U.S. concern at the lack of progress achieved in examining trade problems, following agreement on a work programme in late 1982 when countries belonging to GATT held a ministerial meeting in Paris.

The United States complained then and is still complaining about what it views as a lack of cooperation between countries.

In the discussions, Mr. Brock is expected to lobby for more rules for services such as banking and insurance under the GATT since the United States is becoming increasingly service-oriented in its international trade.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A great day for you to carry through with whatever course of action has already been decided upon and for you to show off how well you can reduce your ideas to a working success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Good day to discuss with experts how to improve your work routines and become more efficient. Be cooperative with associates.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Sit down with associates and know just what is expected of you and how to have more mutual success in the days ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can improve home conditions by agreeing with ideas of kin more. Don't neglect younger persons who are eager for guidance.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get in touch with persons who know all about entertainment that is foreign to you but would like to get into.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study monetary brochures before you handle whatever it is you have in mind and become better informed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be sure you know your true desires before going after them since there is every chance you will gain them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get busy and make a workable plan for the days ahead and then put it quickly in operation. Make life easier by being modern.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to get friends to help you in your aims and take suggestions that can bring you greater success.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study what your true position is with those who can assist you in your worldly goals. State your ideas and ambitions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Find the right interests through which you can make progress in some plan that you have. Be tactful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you have handled those duties that your mate requested, your romantic life is fine, but if not, get them done quickly.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) If you don't like terms of a contract with partners, say so, but be very precise. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will get along well with associates because of the ability to find out what is expected of him, or her and also gain their good will. However, there could be a streak of stubbornness here that has to be curbed.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon you would be wise to avoid any confused situation so don't make commitments, but afterwards, you find a spirit of cooperation comes from one who is very much on the ball.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get dull work done early, and later a new contact brings fine ideas so that you can advance in your career.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle the details of some special talent you possess in the morning. Later a fellow worker comes out with a fine idea for progress.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early get your work done, and later you can enjoy some modern form of entertainment. Steer clear of harassment.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Clear your desk of work in the morning, and later some home matter can prove very pleasant. Take care of yourself.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get your practical affairs in order and later you can get into some new outlet that is very inspiring. Be charming.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Early do whatever will improve your health and then you get fine ideas on how to improve property. Put ideas in operation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Forget all that detailed work that is stagnating and get together with clever friends who have right answers to your problems.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do something thoughtful for your friends and you will be appreciated. After an active day, spend time with charming person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Morning is fine for handling career work and later you can pursue your finest desires. Entertain friends quietly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Early go on with that quest for needed information and then you can contact that hewig with a flair and gain backing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Good day for making collections and paying bills. Make as many new acquaintances as you can. The future is bright.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be sure to carry through with promises you have made to partners. Something dramatic can please your mate in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can readily comprehend specific courses of activity early in life, and upon reaching adulthood, make partnerships that are lasting and satisfying. Teach to concentrate on the broadest perspective possible.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Honduran helicopter shot down over Nicaragua; seven killed

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Honduras said one of its helicopters had been shot down over Nicaraguan territory Wednesday and all seven people aboard had been killed.

Armed Forces Chief Gen. Walter Lopez Reyes told reporters the helicopter had been on an inspection flight over Honduran naval installations in the Gulf of Fonseca but gave no explanation of why it was in Nicaraguan air space.

In Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto said troops shot the helicopter down eight kilometres northwest of the northern Nicaraguan port of Potosi. Mr. D'Escoto said five people had been aboard and all were killed.

Gen. Reyes said the helicopter had been carrying three Honduran airmen, two army pay corps members, a lawyer and a civil engineer.

He added that the incident was being investigated.

The general said the helicopter was inspecting naval installations at the Honduran port of Amapala on Tigre Island in the Gulf of Fonseca, which is shared by the Pacific coasts of Honduras, Nicaragua

and El Salvador.

Amapala is 25 kilometres north of Potosi.

The Gulf of Fonseca has recently been the site of U.S.-naval exercises. Potosi, which overlooks the gulf, has been a target for sea and air attacks by U.S.-financed rightist rebels.

Mr. D'Escoto said the incident was another example of attempts by the United States to create tension between Nicaragua and Honduras, the closest U.S. ally in Central America.

Diplomatic sources said the incident would put a severe strain on Honduran-Nicaraguan relations, already at a low ebb over border clashes between Nicaraguan troops and the rebels waging war against Nicaragua's left-wing government from Honduran bases.

Earlier Wednesday, Nicaragua charged that Honduran troops had attacked a border post in northern Nicaragua and complained to Costa Rica about an incursion

by U.S.-backed rebels in the south.

The Foreign Ministry sent a protest note to Honduras saying Honduran soldiers on Sunday fired on Las Minillas border post in Chinandega province.

Meanwhile, the ministry filed an informal complaint to Costa Rica over a raid Tuesday by 100 rebels of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance (ARDE) on the border post of Palo de Arco, just across the border from Costa Rica. Nicaragua said 15 rebels and four Nicaraguan civilians died in the attack. Nicaragua's Sandinista government is fighting U.S.-backed guerrillas on its northern and southern borders and in dozens of protest notes has accused Honduras and Costa Rica of allowing the rebels to operate from their territory.

The helicopter which was shot down Wednesday by Nicaraguan troops over northern Nicaragua had U.S. army markings on its tail, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said.

A statement said the aircraft was originally thought to have been Honduran because a body of one of its crew members carried a

Honduran identity card.

But an inspection of the helicopter revealed an inscription on the tail saying "U.S. army commander hh 3729 (at 14 al 1101)," the statement said.

The helicopter was the second to be downed by Nicaraguan gunfire this year. In January Nicaraguan troops shot down a U.S. helicopter close to the Honduran border. U.S. officials said the aircraft had strayed off its course in strong winds.

Washington denies

In Washington the Pentagon said Wednesday a military helicopter shot down in Nicaragua Tuesday belonged to the Honduran Armed Forces and was not an American aircraft.

A Pentagon spokesman was asked about a report from Managua that the helicopter had U.S. markings.

"The reports we have here indicate that the helicopter was a Honduran military aircraft," the spokesman said. "It was made in the United States but it was not a U.S. military aircraft."

Reagan appeals to Americans for Central American aid

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is appealing directly to the American people for help in his battle with Congress over increased U.S. military aid to Central America.

Mr. Reagan scheduled a televised address on the controversial aid at 8 p.m. Wednesday night (midnight GMT) to put pressure on Democratic and Republican lawmakers who fear U.S. involvement in the region is getting out of hand.

Washington has been supplying military and other aid to El Salvador and Honduras and has accused the leftist Nicaraguan government of shipping arms to rebels in El Salvador.

Mr. Reagan told a group of American businessmen with investments in the area Tuesday that "freedom-loving people, our friends, are under attack by Soviet Bloc and Cuban sponsored insurgents."

"If we do nothing or not enough to help them protect themselves, there will be grim consequences to pay," he said.

One of those consequences, he said, would be a flood of new refugees seeking entry at the U.S. southern border.

Mr. Reagan initially sought \$93

million in emergency aid for El Salvador and wants to spend \$240 million on arms for that country in the financial year ending on Sept. 30.

But both Republicans and Democrats became wary of U.S. moves in the region after the Central Intelligence Agency was widely reported to have been directly involved in the recent mining of harbours in Nicaragua.

The Senate has approved \$62 million in emergency military aid to El Salvador intended to carry the government through last week's presidential election. But action has been delayed in the House of Representatives, which is controlled by opposition Democrats.

In an address Tuesday to the Council of the Americas, Assistant Secretary of State Langhorne Motley demanded the Nicaraguan government shut down the command centre for El Salvador's leftist "insurgents," which he said was in Managua.

Mr. Motley, the State Department's senior expert on Latin America, said he was referring to "the command and control centre that runs the whole operation in El Salvador."

Weinberger begins talks on Korean security co-operation

SEOUL (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger Wednesday began talks with his South Korean counterpart on ways of boosting security co-operation between the two countries and ensuring stability in the Korean peninsula, officials said.

Mr. Weinberger arrived here Tuesday at the head of a 15-member U.S. delegation for annual defence discussions which are held alternately here and in Washington.

Defence Minister Yoon Sung-Min leads the South Korean side at the two-day security consultative meeting.

"Ensuring peace and stability on this peninsula is the reason we have come," Mr. Weinberger said in an arrival speech.

The 10-week Team Spirit exercises which ended last month included ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and forces from the United States and U.S. bases in Asia.

High ranking Soviet official postpones visit to Peking

PEKING (R) — Moscow has postponed a trip to China by First Vice-Premier Ivan Arkhipov, who was to have been the highest ranking Soviet official to visit Peking in 15 years, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Mr. Arkhipov was due here Thursday for talks on improving trade and technical co-operation. Spokesman Qi Huaiyuan said China was told only Wednesday of the postponement.

The Soviet Union did not give a detailed explanation for the sudden switch in plans other than to say it was not fully prepared for the talks, Mr. Qi added.

No new date had been fixed for the visit.

Press reports from Moscow had said the trip by Mr. Arkhipov, one of three Soviet first vice-premiers, marked the latest phase in a slow movement towards rapprochement between the estranged Communist nations.

But Moscow and Peking traded charges at the weekend on the issue of Sino-Vietnamese border clashes.

The postponement followed Moscow's announcement Tue-

He said the U.S. and South Korean delegations would "review problems and issues associated with our defence relationship, to assess where we stand, and to chart the course of future developments."

Mr. Weinberger said the presence of 40,000 U.S. servicemen in South Korea and recent large joint exercises held in South Korea demonstrated "not only our full and firm commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea but our capability to come to its defence."

While the steelworkers' anger over planned job cutbacks has spilled over into incoherent street violence, the suave figure of Mr. Mitterrand's former Industry Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement has emerged from the sidelines to predict that the president's current policies are doomed to failure.

Mr. Chevènement and his allies, who are now breaking a truce with the Socialist Party mainstream agreed at the last party congress in October, want a growth-first policy which would take France out of the European monetary system, devalue the franc heavily, and if necessary adopt protectionist measures.

Mr. Mitterrand's views reinforced by a visit to the United States in March, believes there is no alternative to current policies if the French economy is to stay competitive.

Mr. Mitterrand's trip to California's "Silicon Valley" and his remarks about a need to encourage free enterprise and venture capital in France seem to have set the seal on a slow shift in his thinking towards economic liberalism.

Now even political arch-enemies like former Prime Ministers Raymond Barre and Jacques Chirac are giving his economic policy their grudging praise.

Right-wing opposition figures say privately that Mr. Mitterrand is pushing through policies much tougher than they could ever have contemplated while they were in power.

7,000 court arrest in New Delhi

(AP) — About 7,000 opposition party activists courted arrest by defying a ban on public assembly in the Indian capital on Wednesday, the last day of a week-long protest against government handling of Sikh violence in the Punjab, police said.

Meanwhile, a village leader was seriously wounded when gun-toting Sikh terrorists made an abortive attempt Wednesday to assassinate Chand Singh Chopra, leader of the main Communist Party in Punjab, authorities said.

Mr. Chopra and Amarjit Singh, the Communist head of Jodh Car village council, were ambushed near an intercity bus station in Barnala, 225 kilometres northwest of New Delhi, Punjab state police said. The assailants escaped.

In Andhra Pradesh state, at least one person was killed and seven were injured in widespread Hindu-Muslim rioting and arson in the southern Indian town of Mahabubnagar, police reported Wednesday.

Authorities rushed hundreds of armed police re-inforcements to the area, 475 kilometres northwest of Madras.

Police said violence broke out late Tuesday.

The civil unrest in Punjab state involved members of the centrist Lok Dal (Masses Party) and the rightist Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party, partners in the National Democratic Alliance.

East Germany calls for breaking of political ice

STOCKHOLM (R) — East Germany called Wednesday for a break in the ice between East and West, while West Germany stressed the need to strengthen the principle of non-aggression with concrete measures.

At the Stockholm Conference on Disarmament in Europe, East German Ambassador Gunter Buhning declared his backing for Soviet and Warsaw Pact demands for negotiation of a non-aggression treaty.

He said the proposal could be considered in another forum, which he did not specify.

"The decisive thing is the political will to break the ice which has become even more deeply frozen" during a seven-week recess in the 35-nation conference, which began a new round this week, Mr. Buhning said.

The Warsaw Pact told NATO countries this week it was time to get down to consultations on a non-aggression pact.

West Germany stressed Wednesday that it supported the principle of non-use of force, but wanted it strengthened through concrete, verifiable confidence-building measures that NATO countries regard as the main issue at the conference.

"We shall not shy away from discussing the non-use-of-force principle," West German Ambassador Klaus Citron told the conference.

However, a general discussion of the principle could not be a substitute for concrete measures.

"A mere re-affirmation of peaceful intentions can in no way be sufficient to eliminate mistrust and to build confidence," Mr. Citron said.

The conference, grouping the United States and Canada with their European allies and neutral European countries, began last January to work out ways of increasing mutual confidence and security to reduce the dangers of a war breaking out.

The Soviet Union tabled its first formal proposals Tuesday and negotiations are now expected to define common ground between these ideas and lists already put forward by the NATO nations, neutral countries and Romania.

Supporting the Soviet proposals, Mr. Buhning said some of them, such as renouncing first use of nuclear arms and creating nuclear-free zones, would diminish risks of nuclear conflict in Europe and went to the core of East German security interests.

The Soviet Ambassador Oleg Grinevsky laid his main emphasis on broad political accords which the West has either rejected or wants kept out of the Stockholm talks.

U.S. Ambassador James Goodby said the Soviet proposals contained "something new and positive" on confidence-building measures.

But he told reporters he hoped Moscow would gradually shelve its other proposals, which he called "ineffectual slogans of 'past'."

Italian experts assess quake damage

PESCASCIOLI, Italy (R) — Thousands of victims of Monday's earthquake in southern Italy spent a second night in makeshift shelter as building experts assessed damage already running into several million dollars.

While more tremors continued to rock the spine of Italy, government officials put the number of homeless at 5,000 and the injured at more than 80. Three people died of shock and heart attacks.

In Pescasseroli, 110 kilometres east of Rome in the Abruzzi National Park where more than 1,000 were forced to abandon their homes, the Communist mayor of this mountain ski resort said there

were 500 damaged houses, a quarter of them unfit for habitation. Mayor Palmiro Costantini estimated the damage here and in nearby Alfedena at seven billion lire (\$4 million).

Criticising the central government's handling of relief operations, Mr. Costantini said: "We could have put all the homeless in the empty hotels here." Instead, he said, "they send us caravans from Florence."

"We can do without all this false efficiency," the mayor angrily told visiting reporters.

"They should give us the money and let us mend the damage. We are used to looking after ourselves," Mr. Costantini said.

Town hall sources said the earthquake on Monday night had highlighted a running battle between the Communist administration and regional and central government departments over building policy in national parks.

As soldiers set up field kitchens to feed the homeless, Civil Protection Minister Giuseppe Zamboni ordered Giuseppe Zamboni to release for immediate relief operations.

In Alfedena, one of the worst-hit communities, an old age pensioner compared the damage with destruction of the town in a World War II artillery duel 40 years ago. The earthquake was worse, she said.

Mitterrand remains an enigma to voters after 3 years as president

By John Morrison



Francois Mitterrand

PARIS — Three years after electing as their president a man who promised them a new alliance between Socialism and liberty, the French are still puzzling over Francois Mitterrand.

The anniversary of his election victory over President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing on May 10, 1981, finds the French left in a mood far removed from the euphoria of the "state of grace" which followed their capture of power.

Not only the Communist Party but also influential sections of the Socialist Party are openly grumbling at the government, following Mr. Mitterrand's guidelines, presses ahead with austerity policies.

The disillusionment on the left was symbolised in April when angry steelworkers burned the president's portrait and shouted, "Mitterrand traitor."

While the steelworkers' anger over planned job cutbacks has spilled over into incoherent street violence, the suave figure of Mr. Mitterrand's former Industry Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement has emerged from the sidelines to predict that the president's current policies are doomed to failure.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Chevènement and his allies, who are now breaking a truce with the Socialist Party mainstream agreed at the last party congress in October, want a growth-first policy which would take France out of the European monetary system, devalue the franc heavily, and if necessary adopt protectionist measures.

Mr. Mitterrand's views reinforced by a visit to the United States in March, believes there is no alternative to current policies if the French economy is to stay competitive.

Mr. Mitterrand's trip to California's "Silicon Valley" and his remarks about a need to encourage free enterprise and venture capital in France seem to have set the seal on a slow shift in his thinking towards economic liberalism.

Now even political arch-enemies like former Prime Ministers Raymond Barre and Jacques Chirac are giving his economic policy their grudging praise.

Right-wing opposition figures say privately that Mr. Mitterrand

Pope listens to Pacific fears on nuclear tests

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (R) — Pope John Paul was greeted on a flying visit to the Solomon Islands Wednesday by dancers in loinclothes and a protest against nuclear testing in the Pacific.

The Pope, sitting in a sports stadium, listened intently to the protest made by Governor-General Sir Baudley Devesi.

"It is unfortunate that the United Nations charter is continuously being abused by some countries in the world," Mr. Devesi said, referring to French underground tests in the South Pacific.

Mr. Devesi, a Solomon Islander nominated by his government as Queen Elizabeth's representative in this Commonwealth country, spoke of the concern in his welcoming address to the Pope before 10,000 people at the stadium.

The Pope arrived by plane from Papua New Guinea on the briefest stop of his Asia and South Pacific tour.



He was met at the airport in bright sunshine by male tribal dancers in loinclothes and given a warm reception by hundreds of Roman Catholics who make up about 20 per cent of the 200,000 population.

Mr. Devesi told the pontiff: "The South Pacific nations have already agreed on a concerted effort to keep our blue part of the Pacific area free from nuclear pollution."

He said his government strongly condemned the French testing of nuclear bombs at the Mururoa Atoll testing site.

The underground blasts have been conducted since 1975 despite protests from countries in the region, including Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Devesi also criticised France for its continued administration of the Pacific island of New Caledonia, stating that the Solomon Islands strongly supported its independence.

Most foreign journalists were barred by the government from covering the Pope's visit because of fears that an assassin might slip in with them.

Although the local defence force was out in strength, the crowd at the airport, along the route and at the stadium was orderly.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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LET THE OPPONENTS LEAD FOR YOU

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 75
♥ A843
♦ J105
♣ Q962

WEST EAST
♠ J109 ♠ Q
♥ KQ107 ♥ J9652
♦ 997 ♦ 843
♣ 853 ♣ J1074

SOUTH
♠ AK86432
♥ Void
♦ AK62
♣ AK

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♣.

We are indebted to British author Victor Mollo for this hand. Test your declarer play by covering the East-West hands, then decide how you would play six spades after the lead of the king of hearts.

The auction was practical and accurate. North's jump to three no trump showed scattered positive values, and South decided that a small slam would be enough since his partner probably had some wasted values in hearts.

At the table, declarer decided that his best shot was to rely on the diamond finesse. He won the ace of hearts and ran the jack of diamonds to West's queen. Since he still had to love a trump because of the 3-1 break, he was down one.

There is a far superior line available. Declarer should not waste his ace of hearts so early and rely on the diamond finesse. He does better to ruff the opening lead and cash the two high trumps. If spades are 2-2, declarer gives up a diamond and claims his slam.

When trumps split 3-1, declarer cashes the ace-king of clubs and then concedes a trump trick. If East holds the third trump, his only safe return is a diamond, and declarer must fall back on the diamond finesse.

But note what happens if West has the three trumps, as in the diagram. Declarer can now claim the contract. No matter what suit West leads, he must put declarer in dummy, and declarer can discard his losing diamonds on the ace of hearts and queen of clubs.

COLUMN 8

British soccer fan shot dead

BRUSSELS (R) — A British soccer fan was shot dead Tuesday night as the first of an estimated 12,000 supporters of England's Tottenham Hotspur poured into Brussels for Tuesday night's UEFA cup final with Belgian Club Anderlecht, police said Wednesday. Police, who have not named the victim, said it was not known who fired the shots. They said the incident, which occurred in a red light district, might have had nothing to do with the soccer match.

Queen opens London flood barrier

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth Tuesday inaugurated the world's largest movable flood barrier, projecting more than a million Londoners who live along the banks of the River Thames. The project cost £450 million (\$630 million), more than four times the original estimate, and took eight years to complete. Scientists say London is sinking by 30 centimetres every century and the barrier is unlikely to be used more than twice a year at first, but by next century it might have to cope with a flood tide every month. Central London was last flooded in 1928, when 14 people died.

Iranian bank staff defy order

LONDON (R) — Female staff at the London branch of Iran's biggest bank turned up for work Wednesday in short skirts and makeup, defying an order to dress according to Islamic Law. The 50 women at the bank Melliri Iran, most of them British, were advised by their union to ignore instructions to cover their heads and arms, wear darker clothing and shun cosmetics. They were told by managers at the state-controlled bank last week they would be sent home Wednesday if they did not obey. But Union Negotiator John Townsend said no action had yet been taken and he was waiting for the bank's reply to a protest letter. Asked about the ban, one of the women told reporters: "It's not our way of life and they are not going to push their Islamic laws and customs on to us."

Robert Mitchum undergoes treatment

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Film star Robert Mitchum is being treated for alcoholism at the Betty Ford Centre here, Mitchum's lawyer, David Laflaie, said Tuesday. The 66-year-old actor entered the centre last Saturday. Fellow stars Elizabeth Taylor, Peter Lawford and Desi Arnaz Junior and country singer Johnny Cash are among those who have been treated at the centre. Mitchum, whose film career spans 30 years, recently starred in the successful television series, the Winds of War.

11 killed in family feud

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Eleven members of a family were killed and four seriously injured when they were attacked in their home, reportedly by members of a rival family, the United News of India (UNI) reported Tuesday. UNI said the two families had held a "long-standing enmity" that led to the confrontation Monday night in a village near Varanasi, about 680 kilometres southeast of here in Uttar Pradesh state. Quoting "official reports," the agency said about 10 armed members of one family allegedly broke into the other family's house at midnight and killed 11 people, including four women.

Rare crocodiles found in Iran

LONDON (R) — More than 370 crocodiles of a unique short-snout species have been found in two rivers in Iran, the Iranian National News Agency IRNA reported Tuesday. It said the crocodiles had been found over the past year in the Sarbaz and Kachuy Rivers near Chah Bahar in the extreme south-east corner of the country, near the Pakistani border. They were now being kept in the Chah Bahar Environment Centre, the agency said.

Weekend crossword not received